

## Unions angry at 39,000 Civil Service jobs cut

A storm of protest from civil service unions greeted the Government's announcement that it was reducing manpower by 39,000 over the next three years. Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, said this was the first instalment of the cutback.

## The first instalment, minister says

By Paul Routledge and David Felton  
The Government announced plans yesterday to cut Civil Service manpower by 39,000 over the next three years to achieve an annual saving of £212m in public spending. A storm of protest from the Civil Service unions greeted the disclosure that 39,000 jobs are to go.

Making the long-awaited announcement, Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and Minister with Responsibility for the Civil Service, gave a warning that this was only the first instalment of employment cuts. He said: "The Government is reviewing the activities of a number of departments, including Health and Social Security, Defence, and Environment, to see what further savings can be made. An announcement will be made in six to eight months."

Lord Soames told leaders of the Civil Service unions last night for talks on the reductions, but he made clear before the meeting that the Government sees the unions' role as helping to achieve the savings, rather than fighting the Government's policy of reducing the size of the service.

"It is for Government to decide what should be the areas of government, and the extent to which Government should be involved in the economy. It is for Government to decide and not for the Civil Service," he said. The Lord President made it clear that ministers will rely on the views of the unions in their measures through "I think public opinion is on the side of 'have you done enough'".

Civil Service numbers would be cut from the present 72,000 to about 32,000 by 1983 (against 72,000 when the Conservatives took office). The Government says the figure would have been 74,000 by next April if Labour had retained the present level of about 24 per cent, but has achieved since the election by a stop on recruitment.

The cuts vary from department to department, from only one or two per cent to 16 per cent in the Transport Ministry. Lord Soames stressed that the Government's aim was to "as far as practicable" to secure the reductions by natural wastage, but he conceded that there would have to be some compulsory redundancies.

The search for greater economy and efficiency will of course go on throughout the lifetime of this Parliament, he said. "All ministers will continue to keep the work of their departments under close scrutiny and the House will be informed from time to time."

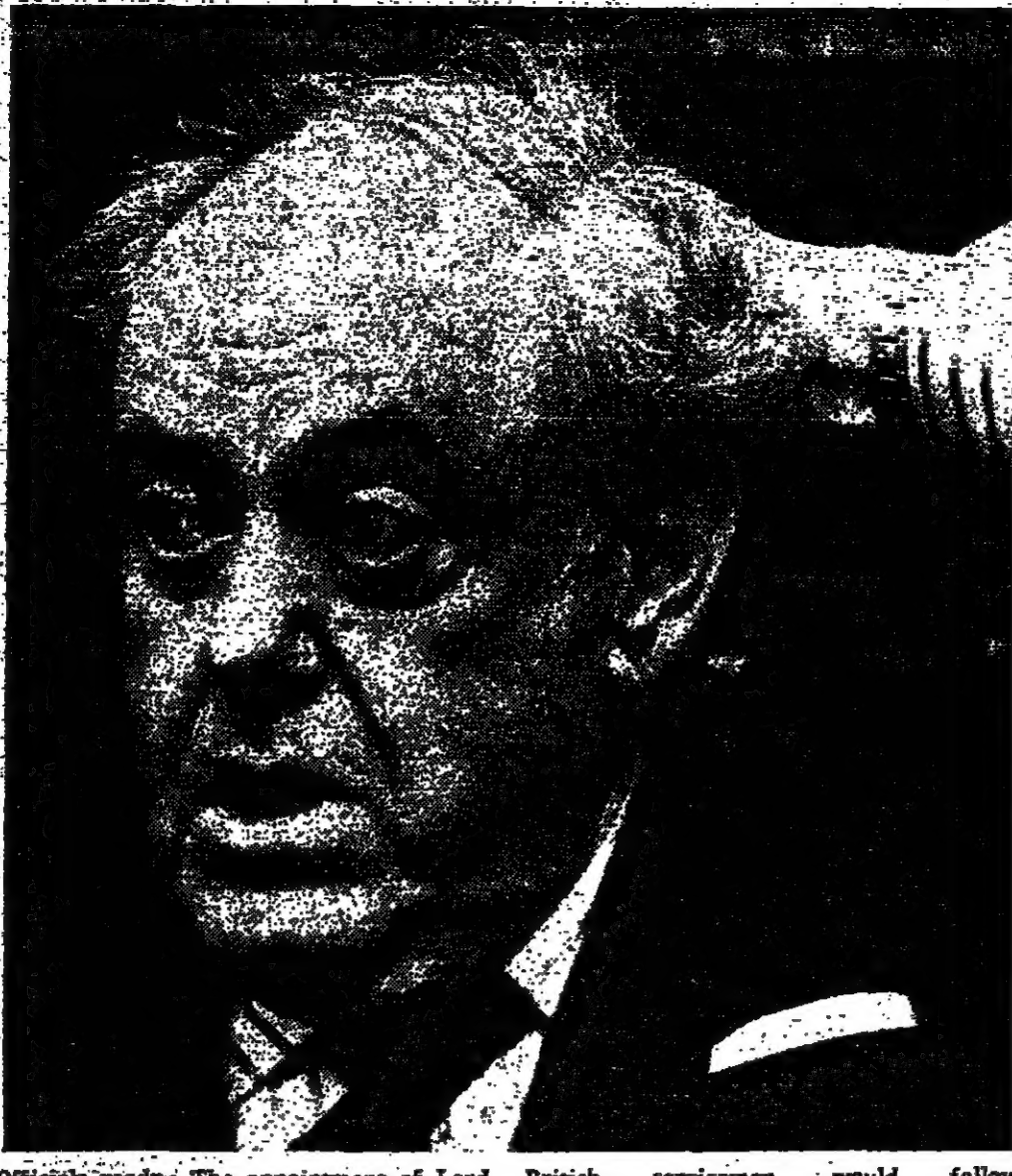
The next phase will involve policy studies to identify what activities can be given to private sector. This is expected to be particularly marked in defence, which accounts for one-third of the Civil Service.

Unions' reactions last night were predictably hostile, with the Transport and General Workers' Union, which represents industrial civil servants, threatening to take industrial action if necessary to oppose the cuts.

The white-collar unions pledged continuing opposition to the cuts and said they would begin a publicity campaign to persuade the Government to change its mind in several instances.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants described the cuts as "catastrophic", especially in the regions where unemployment was already high. The Government was handing public responsibilities to private "profit".

It became clear that the shift of some civil service functions to private industry would account for about 25 per cent of the total package, or in money, £60m.



Officials ready. The appointment of Lord Soames (above) as Governor of Rhodesia is to be announced in Parliament as soon as arrangements can be finished, it was learned authoritatively last night (Fred Emery, Our Political Editor, writes).

The announcement could come today, but even if it has to be postponed until Monday the Government intends that Lord Soames should fly out to Salisbury early next week, together with Sir Antony Duff, now firmly expected to become Deputy Governor.

They would take with them what is described as a full plane load of senior British military police and civilian officials, including Major-General Sir John Acland, the commander designate of the Commonwealth ceasefire monitoring force. The troops of that force, including more than 700 British servicemen, would follow immediately.

The decision means that the British Government is now confident of achieving a full agreement, a so called first class solution to the Zimbabwe Rhodesia conflict, even if the final details have not been signed by the time Lord Soames flies out.

As disclosed in *The Times* yesterday, the Government had been preparing to send a high official as acting governor, with the possibility of sending Lord Soames later, but that option was dropped. It was seen as paramount for the British presence to start on the highest note to impress all Zimbabwe Rhodesians, especially the white community, and to forestall any thought of overturning the settlement before the British re-established authority.

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## Wrangles slow ceasefire talks

From David Spenser  
Diplomatic Correspondent  
Hopes that the detailed discussions on a Rhodesian ceasefire would be completed easily or quickly were immediately dashed yesterday. No sooner had the delegation on down class a wrangle began about the numbers of Patriotic Front forces in Zimbabwe Rhodesia and the arrangements for their disarmament.

The Patriotic Front raised strong objections to the proposals by the British side for the assembly of their forces in 15 areas, as envisaged under Lord Carrington's plan, on the ground that a similar scheme was not being put forward for the Salisbury forces.

They declined to discuss the size of their forces at all at this stage.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the joint leader of the Patriotic Front, told the Foreign Secretary: "We are willing to reciprocate. But we do not accept that we must do what others are not required to do. We shall not be pushed into places where we appear to surrender. We insist on equal conditions, equal obligations, equal rights and equal duties."

Urging the conference to complete its remaining work in two or three days, Lord Carrington had opened the meeting by expressing the hope that a date for cessation of hostilities would be fixed soon, and suggesting that the leaders of both sides should transmit warning orders to their forces.

Essentially, the British side sees the first step as disengagement by the Salisbury forces,

followed by the Patriotic Front moving their men to rendezvous points and assembly areas. Not until this second stage has been completed is the next stage to be defined.

But the Patriotic Front made it clear that such an approach is totally unacceptable. They insist that if their own forces are to move in this way, the Salisbury forces must do likewise, not necessarily to the same number of bases but at least in commensurate strength.

## Muslim militants in Tabriz take over from Khomeini men

Tabriz, Dec 6.—Opponents of Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary leader, today took over the radio and television station of East Azerbaijan province and said they would no longer accept the authority of Government officials appointed by Tehran.

The take-over was the most serious challenge to the Ayatollah since Iran adopted a new constitution earlier this week giving him almost unlimited powers.

According to the leader of the Muslim People's Republican Party (MPRP) in this provincial capital, Haj Hossein Farji, Muslim militants occupied the broadcasting station after armed followers of the Ayatollah opened fire with automatic weapons to break up demonstrations here, wounding eight people.

The demonstrations were staged in protest at an incident yesterday in the holy city of Qom, in which rival demonstrators clashed near the home of Azerbaijan's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Kazem Shariat-Madari. Two men were killed in shooting near the residence.

Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, whom the MPRP considers its religious leader, comes from Azerbaijan and commands the support of the majority of its eight million people.

A broadcast tonight from the occupied radio station declared Ayatollah Shariat-Madari to be "the leader of all the world's Shia Muslims" and added that all Government officials serving in Azerbaijan must be appointed by him.

Radio announcements in both Turkish and Farsi said: "As time passes it becomes more and more obvious that there are divisions in the revolution. The worst was the constitution."

The Azerbaijanis object to Article 110 which gives greater powers to the revolutionary leader, including command of the armed forces.

The two ayatollahs met in Qom this morning. Ayatollah Khomeini later called on Muslims to bury their differences and concentrate their efforts against the big enemy, the United States.

The occupied radio here said that the authority of Governor General Nureddin Gharavi was no longer recognized in Tabriz and his successor must be appointed by Ayatollah Shariat-Madari. It also broadcast demands for the immediate withdrawal of all non-Azerbaijani Revolutionary Guards from the region.—Reuter.

Vance mission: Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, will pay quick visits to five European capitals next week to inform allies of America's position on Iran and seek their support. He is attending the Nato ministerial conference in Brussels, and will go to London, Paris, Bonn, and Rome.

His spokesman said the visits signified no dramatic changes in American policy.

A delegation of senior Treasury and State Department officials has already left for Europe on a similar mission.

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## Non-smoker causes aircraft rebellion

From Michael Learyman  
New York, Dec 6

A squabble between passengers about smoking became so heated that the captain of a shuttle flight from Washington to New York made an unscheduled landing yesterday. When the smoke cleared, the leading passengers found they had reached Baltimore—just 39 miles from where their journey began.

There they had to wait for another airline to continue the journey. They arrived in New York three hours late, still arguing over who was to blame for what the captain described as "an insurrection."

The trouble began when Mr Richard Lent, a non-smoking Washington lawyer, climbed on board the crowded 8am shuttle and sat down near the middle of the aircraft, several rows forward of the section reserved for non-smokers. He asked the stewardess if the non-smoking area could be extended to embrace his seat.

Mr Gil Perinotti, the spokesman for Eastern Airlines, explained today that the rules of the Civil Aeronautics Board are firm that any passenger who wishes to be accommodated in a non-smoking section has the right to insist on it. The airline can be fined heavily for not complying.

The original non-smoking section was full, and nobody in it was willing to swap places with Mr Lent. He turned down the offer of a seat on an aircraft leaving 10 minutes later.

The stewardess, therefore, had no choice but to comply with his request. This angered passengers in the seats nearby, who, even so early in the morning, were looking forward to lighting up just as soon as the aircraft became airborne.

"They perceived that they were being prevented from doing so by one man," Mr Perinotti said. "They got angry. They stood in the aisles and it developed into a shouting match."

When the aircraft took off the smokers defied the stewardess and began puffing. Some said that Mr Lent then became angry and demanded that they stop, but he denies making trouble.

"All I wanted was a non-smoking seat," he said. "Once I got that, I was out of it. The rest of what happened did not involve me."

The captain, Mr Larry Kinsey, sought to quell the disturbance by issuing an ultimatum, over the loudspeaker. "This insurrection has to stop or I'm going to land the aircraft," he said.

A few minutes later he made another announcement: "Well, the insurrection has not stopped, so I'm landing," and he did.

One passenger said: "It was silly and childish. I have not seen a display like this since kindergarten. We had to land the aircraft and sort out everyone's clothes and toys."

Nuclear leak

Uranium hexafluoride leaked from the British Nuclear Fuels plant at Capenhurst, near Chester, yesterday. About eight men were on duty in the technical department had to leave the building for medical tests.

Last night ministers jocularly admitted that it was most unlikely the gas would be discovered. It was asserted that no Cabinet minister was involved in the leak.

These provisions were written in by me in 1943. It was 1979, 35 years later. My provisions were sensible and humane, and I think it is very silly for local authorities to turn their backs on them, as Oxfordshire has done."

The education committee of the Association of County Councils yesterday passed a motion by a large majority calling on the Government to introduce an additional clause in the Education Bill, now in its committee stage in the House of Commons, to allow authorities to charge for nursery education and to give them power to remit those charges for the needy.

## Union meets Shell for dispute talks

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

Negotiators of the Transport and General Workers' Union were meeting with Shell management last night to try to solve the dispute with its 2,500 tanker drivers as the pressure for petrol and heating oil supplies over the coming week, worsened sharply.

Esso's 2,000 drivers began an overtime ban and work to rule, which, a company spokesman said, was cutting deliveries to customers by a third. With both Shell and Esso in dispute, about 40 per cent of the United Kingdom's petrol and heating oil supplies have become subject to industrial action.

At Esso's 50 per cent of Shell's 4,500 filling stations yesterday either had no petrol or very little. A company spokesman said anxious reports were coming in from industrial customers running short of the heating fuels, propane and butane. Some customers had been finding alternative supplies, but heavy industry needing fuel oil were having difficulties.

At Esso all garages yesterday should have had plentiful supplies. The company, however, Continued on page 2, col 3

## Inquiry into nuclear report leak

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

A formal inquiry is to be held into the leak to *Time* Out magazine and *The Guardian* of a Cabinet committee document regarding the building of a nuclear power station with a reactor of the type involved in an accident at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons that it was extremely serious; government could not be conducted on the basis of secrets appearing in newspapers, a position which Mr Callaghan is known to support strongly. She added that it was the first such inquiry under her government.

In fact, only 10 days ago Mrs Thatcher admitted that another leak, by *The Sunday Times*, of a Cabinet document was being investigated. Last night it was being officially pretended that the earlier leak was of less than Cabinet status.

Be that as it may, there have already been many more police investigations into leaks that have occurred under Mrs Thatcher's government. Only these two have been openly admitted.

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The Chancellor has provided the first real opportunity to build up capital by cutting personal taxes. This must not be missed as it should not be forgotten that the lifetime of a Government is still only five years.

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The scheme applies to anyone with an existing investment portfolio or wishing to make savings from income. The net yield further increases, if the scheme is used in conjunction with covenants. For the older person the benefit can be taken in the form of extra income. Please write or telephone for further details.

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## Questions about expenses put to six athletes

From Ronald Fox  
Edinburgh

Six Scottish athletes were summoned last night before an inquiry by the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association into allegations that they had received excessive expenses after competing in the Edinburgh Highland Games at Meadowbank test-year.

The athletes are Chris Black of Edinburgh, the hammer thrower who has competed in the Commonwealth and Olympic Games; Frank Clement of Linlithgow, who has run in the Commonwealth 1,500 metres; Nat Muir of Salisbury, the 5,000 metres hope for the Moscow Olympics; John Robson of Kilmarnock, bronze medalist in the 1,500 metres at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh; Alan Wells of Edinburgh, 200 metres Commonwealth champion; and Graham Williamson of Levens, winner of the world student games 1,500 metres.

If it were proved that any of the six received money from a sponsorship fund for the games, their amateur status could be compromised and they would risk being barred from competing in the Moscow Olympics.

Mr Paul Saker, a lawyer representing the six, said before the hearing last night that they had not taken any money on which they were not entitled.

## Attack by judge on claim that trial is political

The judge in the jury vetting trial at the Central Criminal Court of four anarchists said that suggestions it was a political trial were "mischievous and calculated to mislead the jury."

Judge Alan King-Hamilton directed that it was not a political trial. He said the vetting of the jury, rather than involving the abandonment of the principle of random selection because it was not limited to the first 12.

Schmidt success

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt stands at the peak of his career, Faridat Cloutier writes from Berlin. His authority and prestige are at a maximum. His success with the Social Democrats is all the more remarkable because many in the party do not care personally for the leader who can be arrogant, gratuitously rude and needlessly sharp with his critics.

Students seek 36 pc

The National Union of Students is to demand a 36 per cent increase in the maintenance grant next year. The claim will be presented to the union's conference at Blackpool today.

## Spanish train crash kills 17 passengers

Seventeen people were killed and 85 injured in a train collision near Basque. A crowded passenger train was hit by a runaway goods train which, it is reported, rolled away when its crew got off to check mechanical trouble.

Payphones on trial

The Post Office is putting electronic push-button payphones on trial next Monday at airport and station sites. If the experiment succeeds, it hopes to replace its 350,000 public or rented payphones over the next five years.

Bill disappointment

Conservative MPs face disappointment when the Health service Bill is presented to the Commons today. Their expectations were raised when the Prime Minister told a Labour member it was far better to reduce the number of administrators than to cut services to patients. The Tories had expected a surgical operation on NHS bureaucracy.

The Grange saved

The Grange, William Wilkin's neoclassical mansion at Northampton, Hampshire, has been saved. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced it will be preserved at a cost of £500,000.

## South Korea elects President

Mr Choi Kyu Hak, who became acting head of state of South Korea after the assassination of President Park, has been elected President. Mr Choi, an experienced diplomat who was Prime Minister, was the only candidate.

New Peking wall

The Chinese authorities are moving Peking's "democracy wall" to a less accessible place in the capital. Under new regulations anyone wishing to post a poster at the new site must give his name, address and place of work at a special office. The changes come after sharp official criticism of the wall.

Broadcasting future

Sir Harold Wilson tells MPs that the BBC should get attuned to the age of satellites.

Paris: Gaullists look up to Mrs Thatcher

Sinai: Israeli Army begins to count the strategic cost of peace as 300 lorries carry out evacuation

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Letters: On events in Iran, from Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP, and Mr Bernard Wates; on hospital pickets, from Dr Jean Currie-Ratcliff and Lord Onslow; on replacing curative medicine, from Mr Donald Gould

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David Gussman, reviewing Robert Bresson's *Pickpocket* at the ICA, considers the cinema as the time-machine of our century; John Percival finds the Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake* an unsatisfactory compromise of old and new

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Stock markets: Disappointing figures from GEC and Rascal sent shares down and the FT index fell 6.9 to 4117. Interest rate nears a miserable day for gilt-edged securities; features: Caroline Atkinson examines the damage done to the dollar by the United States Government's decision to freeze Iranian deposits; Finance of 2011: GEC beyond the recession; no forecast from Rascal

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HOME NEWS

# Health service Bill to reduce bureaucracy falls short of surgical operation, Tories feel

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Conservatives who are expecting prompt action by the Government to reduce the bureaucracy of the National Health Service will be disappointed by the Health Service Bill to be presented to the Commons and published today.

Their expectations were raised yesterday by the Prime Minister who, in a letter to a leading Labour critic of the Government public expenditure cuts as they impinge on public services, said that she hoped he would support the Government in their legislation to reduce the weight of administration in the health service.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher agreed that it was far better to reduce the number of administrators than to reduce the services to patients.

In fact, the Bill will deal only with the restoration of pay beds in NHS hospitals.

There could be minor provisions which foreshadow later legislation, but the real impact on health service spending will come in a Bill which cannot be introduced until the next parliamentary session.

That means that the people working in the area health authorities are saved for at least a year. It means also that the Conservatives are delaying action on their manifesto pledge to make better use of the resources available to the service, and cut back on bureaucracy.

They also promised, as explained by Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health and Social Security, at the party conference in October, that the health authorities would be empowered to raise money locally in collaboration with voluntary organizations.

But the main Bill is put off until the next session of Parliament, which may not begin until November or December next year.

Instead of proceeding with the abolition of the area health authorities, the Government will publish yet another consultation document next week setting out its proposals. In the context of a substantial and early cut in public spending, that will be seen as a partial return.

It is all the more galling to some Conservative MPs because they know that the Labour government was contemplating a similar surgical operation on the health service.

Mr James Callaghan and Labour MPs against introducing a Bill involving public expenditure in the House of Lords, the Government has decided to start the progress of the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill in the Commons.

## BBC 'should get attuned to satellites'

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster

The BBC should start to look beyond the two-dimensional world and get itself attuned to satellites, Sir Harold Wilson told the Commons yesterday during a debate on the increase in television licence fees.

Sir Harold, chairman of the Interim Action Committee of the British Film Authority, said that unless alternative sources of revenue were explored, the BBC and independent television would be suffering serious losses by the early 1980, when satellites operated by foreign countries would be transmitting strong competition for British broadcasting.

France and Luxembourg had already given notice that they would have satellites in orbit by the early 1980s, transmitting and advertising in three languages, including English. The BBC, commercial television and newspapers in Britain would be losing revenue as a result.

Sir Harold told the House that his committee had been shown maps indicating that the programmes from Continental satellites would be capable of being seen in this country within the next few years. Alternative means of revenue should be considered.

By means of cable television, paid for by coin boxes according to programmes required, there could be no further increases in licence fees, and already more than two million households were wired for cable television.

The BBC, Sir Harold said, should have the exclusive right to provide programmes for cable television.

Earlier Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said that if television licences for old age pensioners were abolished, the cost of a colour licence would go up by half to £50.

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## Immigrants quota plan finally dropped

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The virtual abandonment of an immigration register and quota system, as promised by the Government in its election manifesto, was confirmed by cabinet ministers last night.

This followed a non-committal response by Margaret Thatcher at question time in the Commons.

The Prime Minister had been pressed by Mr Nicholas Budge (Conservative, Wolverhampton, South-East) to take the opportunity to restate the manifesto commitments, in view of the fact, he suggested, that the revised immigration rules would fail to curb new immigration.

Mr Budge (Conservative, Wolverhampton, South-East) said that the Government had promised to introduce an immigration register and quota system, but that it had now been abandoned.

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## Reopen file on Trotskyists, Labour peer says

By Our Political Reporter

Lord Underhill, former national agent of the Labour Party, last night called for the reopening of his 1977 report on Trotskyist infiltration into the party. The documents were never published and did not go before the party's full national executive.

His comments came after an allegation by Mr Neville Sandelson, Labour MP for Hillingdon, Hayes and Uxbridge, that there had been a party cover-up. Mr Sandelson is under attack in his own constituency by a militia faction.

Lord Underhill said he did not want to give the impression that the party was riddled with Trotskyists. But we know that these people, with their own paid staff, are following a set line of action. I believe it ought to be stopped before it becomes rampant. It only needs two or three of these people to get on to a general management committee of a constituency party.

The document should be made available to all members of the national executive committee, and constituency parties should be made aware of the aims of the tendency and its policy of "entrism".

## PO unveils its blue electronic payphone

By Annabel Ferguson

Thirty-one new electronic push-button telephones are being on trial on Monday at four Post Office and station sites in London.

The new "blue payphone", considered by the Post Office to be one of the most advanced coin telephones in the world, is being launched at a cost of about £100,000. Instructions and directional signs will be printed in blue.

The Post Office hopes to have a hundred on trial by March and if they are successful to replace its 360,000 public and rented payphones with them or a modified version over the next five years.

The telephone contains a microprocessor, which works out the cost of the call and returns coins at the end of the call. It will not be refunded unless the caller has inserted a coin and cannot give a selection of coins.

Thus, if a caller puts in a 50p piece and makes only a 4p call, he will not be refunded 46p. Callers are advised to use as wide a range of coins as possible to facilitate refunds.

The Post Office says that no successful change-giving machines have been invented.

Another new aspect of the telephone is that it allows the user to make more than one call for his money. After his first call, if he is still in credit, he can push the "follow-on" button and telephone again.

The trial sites for the telephone are: Heathrow, Gatwick, Glasgow, Manchester and Cardiff airports; Victoria, Liverpool Street, Birmingham and Edinburgh stations; Dover Dock and Trafalgar Square and St Paul's shopping precincts, London.

The telephones which are to be made by Agitelco Limited of Croydon, Surrey, are of stainless steel cases.

Miss Kim Hall, a Post Office worker, demonstrating the new push-button "blue payphone".



Although the machine will return coins at the end of a call, it will not give change. The coins the caller has inserted and cannot give a selection of coins.

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## Neoclassical mansion saved at cost of £1m

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

The Grange, William Wilton's great neoclassical mansion at Northampton, Hampshire, is to be preserved at a cost of £1,000,000, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced yesterday.

In the light of the Government's campaign to reduce public expenditure, it is a brave and unexpected decision, and one that will delight conservationists.

The building, which was taken into government guardianship in 1975, has been allowed to decay for years, and the latest appeal for urgent action came in a letter to *The Times* on Tuesday from the president of the Royal Academy, the Society of Antiquaries and the Council for British Archaeology.

Mr Heseltine said that discussions with those interested in its future had persuaded him that it was a unique and irreplaceable piece of Britain's architectural heritage. The overwhelming weight of opinion among those he had consulted was in favour of saving it.

Asked about possible criticisms from those who did not take the same view, Mr Heseltine replied that he was constantly faced with a dilemma in determining priorities.

"But in a case like this you have to put yourself apart from public expenditure," he said. "We are not going to have a public expenditure crisis for ever, and it would be a tragedy if the Grange was lost just because we happen to have one at the moment."

Department officials have accepted that there is no hope of raising the money to carry out the repairs to the interior of the building, and the money will be spent on stabilizing the exterior, including the portico, the conservatory and the terraces, and on making the garden area sound and preserving them from the elements.

## Polytechnic cancels Joseph talk

By Ian Bradley

A meeting that was to have been addressed by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, at the Polytechnic of Central London yesterday was cancelled by the polytechnic authorities because they could not guarantee his safety.

On Wednesday the polytechnic's School of Business Studies was occupied by students protesting against the Government's proposed increase in fees for overseas students. The polytechnic asked the police to surround the building, order for the possession of the building.

The meeting at which Sir Keith was to have spoken was organized by the Conservative Students Alliance, a right-wing breakaway group from the Federation of Conservative Students. It was open to all students.

The alliance said: "The weakness of the polytechnic authorities has played directly into the hands of the left-wing extremists who are now in possession of the polytechnic."

Mr Michael Brandon-Bravo, assistant provost of the polytechnic, rejected the Conservative students' accusation. He said the authorities had acted extremely swiftly with Wednesday's occupation and that they had cancelled Sir Keith's meeting simply because "the circumstances were not conducive to good order and discipline".

## £18,111 for Joe Davis souvenirs

By Geraldine Norman  
Sales Rooms Correspondent

The contents of the billiard room of Joe Davis, the snooker champion, were consigned for sale by Sotheby's yesterday by his widow.

There were many souvenirs of the great man and his game but the most prized were recorded for his billiard table. The fine full-size table by Thurston and Co of Leicester Square made £10,000, selling to A. W. Hainsworth and Sons.

A replica of the World's Professional Snooker Championship Cup, in silver presented to Joe Davis in 1949 to commemorate the fact that he was undefeated from 1927 until his retirement in 1946, made £1,500 (estimate £400-500).

Among the other curiosities were a silver flask with the monogram JD at £50 (estimate £40-60), an electric table lamp at £10 (estimate £10-20), three ivory billiard balls at £80 (estimate £150-200) and a large framed photograph of Joe Davis at £35 (estimate £10-20). The Davis material totalled £18,111.

The first vintage wine ever offered at auction by Christie's was a 1748 Hock; James Christie got between £25 and £31 a dozen bottles for it in 1772 on behalf of "an ambassador on his return home".

Yesterday they offered a single bottle of the same vintage. In the course of 207 years the price had inflated to £260, and for a single bottle at that price is the equivalent of £3,120 a case, an increase of 2,000 per cent since 1772.

The single bottle on offer contained the famed 1748 Rudeheimer. Rudeheimer, the oldest drinkable wine to appear in the sale room this year. Its vintage is little short of a miracle.

The most ancient wine is stored beneath the vaults called the "12 apostles", and the oldest of all in the adjoining cellar—dating back to a wine of 1653.

According to Michael Broadbent, director of Christie's wine department and one of the few living connoisseurs not to have the reputation of being a "deep amber" collector, still, star-bright with a pungent Madeira-like bouquet and a flavour aromatic, dry, pungent, with tannin acidity, it is one of the finest of the vintage to forty years ago from the year 1748 vintage. New bottles are taken from the casks.

Other sale room news, page 16

## Choice for Lynch successor narrows to two

From Christopher Thomas  
Dublin

The Irish Republic was alive with speculation last night about the outcome of the battle to succeed Mr Jack Lynch as Prime Minister, but it looked increasingly as though it could come down to a choice between two main contenders.

Mr Charles Haughey, of the "deep green" political faction, and Mr George Colley, who is politically similar to Mr Lynch, were anxiously tooting up their support throughout the day.

But Mr Desmond O'Malley, Minister for Industry and Commerce, said that he would not be entering the contest. There were also doubts about the position of Mr Michael O'Kennedy, Minister for Foreign Affairs and also a possible compromise choice.

The crucial election meeting of 52 Fianna Fail deputies begins at 11 am in Leinster House today and until then it will not be certain how many contenders there are. The deputies will be given much time as they want to argue about the merits and weaknesses of the candidates before being invited by Mr "Billy" Kennelly, the party chairman, to cast a secret vote.

It will amount to a knockout contest, with the person collecting the fewest votes falling out until somebody emerges with more than half the eligible votes, a measure which Mr Lynch would pursue his robust republican views as leader of the party that has Irish unity as a central policy plank.

The election proves that there is no natural successor to Mr Lynch, who has been an enormous electoral asset. He is understood to favour Mr Colley and it is probable that he made his own judgment on who his successor might be before resigning.

His relations with Mr Haughey, whom his dismissed nine years ago over an unproven gun-running scandal, has been acrimonious and Mr Lynch would be extremely difficult to succeed as party leader.

There is no doubt that Mr Haughey, Minister for Health, has more public appeal than his main rival, but his rambling style, and the memory of the arms scandal (of which a court found him not guilty) worries many people. However, he is seen by deputies as the party's only hope of matching Fitzgerald, the Fine Gael leader.

Mr Colley, despite some doubts about his performance as Finance Minister, is seen as a "safe" candidate, somebody who probably would not disrupt Anglo-Irish relations.

## Managers still hope for link with unions

By Our Labour Staff

The union establishment yesterday took a step towards recognizing the Engineers' and Managers' Association has a role in manufacturing industry when Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering leaders agreed to discuss with the association its request for affiliation.

Affiliation to the confederation would mean a significant advance for the association's general secretary, Mr John Lyons, and could pave the way for resolution of a bitter conflict between white collar unions.

The technical, administrative and supervisory section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, though they did not vote against a meeting with Mr Lyons, remain firmly opposed to the suggested affiliation.

Indications yesterday, however, were that the engineering union's dominant engineering section would look favourably on the application.

## TGWU expected to boycott reorganization talks at BL

By Donald MacIntyre  
Labour Reporter

The Transport and General Workers' Union, the biggest in Britain, is expected to boycott talks arranged with the company in the wake of the overwhelming vote by employees in support of Sir Michael Edwards' reorganization plans.

That was made clear by a meeting of the executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering unions, which is due to meet BL on December 10 and recommend acceptance of the plans in the first place.

The TGWU told the confederation, dominated by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, that if the meeting was to discuss restructuring of the company and progress on manning reductions, its four representatives on the executive would not be attending.

Mr Tod Sullivan, TGWU national officer, said yesterday: "I should have thought that the only thing the company would want to talk to us about would be the corporate plan, and on that basis we shall not be attending."

Mr Terence Duffy, the AUEW president and the president of the CSBE engineering committee, said: "The highest court in the land, the members, have decided: it is 'yes' to the Edwards plan. The TGWU has been invited to the meeting and I believe everyone should be there in view of the members' decision. We ask them to stick to the 20th."

New Robinson dispute: Talks between BL and the union are expected to produce a controversial new working practices throughout its car factories will be resumed today against a background of speculation over the possible presence of Mr Robinson, a Midlands Industrial Correspondent writes.

Mr Robinson is a member of the union team which sits with management members on the BL joint working practices committee. Shop steward colleagues insist that as he was appointed to the council by his union he has every right to attend today's meeting.

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## Savings Bonds withdrawn

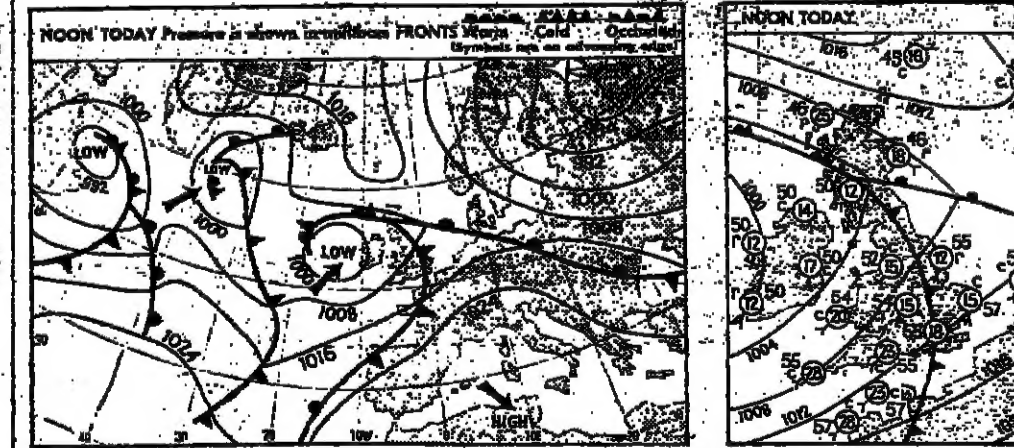
By Margaret Stone

British Savings Bonds, the peace-time successor to the "War Bonds", will not be issued at the end of the year as part of the Government's economy drive in the Civil Service.

The bonds have been declining in popularity for several years and holdings now stand at around £700m, compared with £1,200m in their heyday in the early 1960s. They are less flexible than many other forms of savings and the Department of National Savings acknowledges that they are held for five years.

That may be a suitable form of investment in days of peace, but the Government is anxious not to encourage the £700m invested in them and hoped that when the time comes bonds will be withdrawn from sale. The National Savings Bank's investment manager, Mr John Gifford, said: "The current rate of interest is 10 per cent but with the 4 per cent bonus the equivalent return is only 12.2 per cent, provided they are held for five years."

## Weather forecast and recordings



## Some industry running short of heating fuel

Continued from page 1

ever, had instituted an allocation system as soon as the Shell dispute started to prevent its winter stocks being too drastically run down.

The Government is watching the situation closely, a Department of Energy spokesman said. Under the Energy Act it has wide-ranging powers to protect vital supplies to hospitals and other organizations urgently needing heating oil or petrol.

Motoring organizations were urging the public not to panic and fill up their tanks.

But business in the Midlands was up 30 per cent at filling stations and 80 schools in Glasgow and Strathclyde were closed because of a lack of heating oil. Buses in Glasgow were working at peak hours only.

Shell's dispute is over the use of contracted labour. It came to a head last week when 500 men at 14 depots were suspended for refusing to cooperate with contracted labour. The Esso drivers are taking action in favour of a 28 per cent pay claim which has been rejected by management. No date has been set for further talks.

## Miners want early talks on BSC coal imports

By Our Labour Editor

Leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday accepted the verdict of last week's secret ballot and indicated their willingness to accept the National Coal Board's offer of 20 per cent pay rise, £1,800 a year wage package, which will cut coal imports to a minimum of £101.95 a week.

But the union is to take up with the Government the issue of subsidies for coaling coal. The miners want an early meeting with Mr John Moore, Under-Secretary of State for Energy, to discuss cash aid that will protect jobs in coalfields threatened by the British Steel Corporation's policy of increasing fuel imports.

Mr Joseph Gormley, the union president, said the NUM hoped for talks early next week with a view to resolving the issue favourably before Christmas.

Offer on ship: Mr George Wright, general secretary of the Wales TUC, said last night that the Greek cargo vessel *Marina Lemos*, which is being anchored in the Bristol Channel two miles off Barry, will be allowed into Newport docks this afternoon provided the Welsh executive committee of the NUM supports a compromise formula (David Elton writes).

He said that another ship carrying coaling coal from the United States was due just before Christmas. It would not be allowed to dock unless in the meantime the NCB and the BSC were able to put satisfactory proposals for imports of cheap coaling coal.

The *Marina Lemos*, loaded with 18,000 tonnes of American coal, was refused entry to Newport docks on Monday when dockers of the Transport and General Workers' Union responded to an appeal for support from the NUM.

The miners are concerned about British Steel's plans to import 27 per cent of its coaling coal requirements in the financial year next March. The *Marina Lemos*'s cargo was destined for the Llanwrn steel works.

A third vessel with cargo for Llanwrn is due at Newport in the New Year.

The Wales TUC expects to have a further meeting with the BSC and NCB before December 15.

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## HOME NEWS

## Claim that anarchists' trial is political untrue, judge says

The judge in the trial of four anarchists at the central criminal court yesterday condemned suggestions that it was a political trial as "mischievous".

At the start of his summing up on the fifty-first day of the trial, in which three men and a woman deny conspiring to rob, Judge Alan King-Hamilton told the jury: "Some counsel in this case have described this as a political trial."

"If what is meant by a political trial is that someone is tried because of his political views, then so to describe this trial is utterly, completely untrue, mischievous, misleading and deliberately calculated to prejudice your views. I direct you that this is not a political trial."

The Crown's case is that the accused as anarchists had conspired to attack key targets and institutions in society. They are alleged to have been involved in a plot to rob supermarkets and other places, to buy weapons and bomb-making materials.

The judge said: "It is one of the principles of the British constitution that anyone may hold any political view he chooses, however extreme, subject only to the laws of libel, slander and sedition."

But if a person tried to persuade others to commit crime to bring about constitutional

change, he could be tried, though his beliefs would have no meaning in themselves.

An anarchist was someone who believed in anarchy—derived from the Greek word meaning "without a ruler". That connoted that if there was no ruler a state of lawlessness could result.

"That is the very opposite of what we believe in, because it is the art and science of government."

On the verdict of the jury, the judge said: "One has heard criticism of jury vetting as amounting to the abandonment of the random selection of jurors. What nonsense! It widens the random selection instead of being limited to the first 12."

The accused are: Vincent Stevenson, aged 25, Trevor Dawson, aged 21, both formerly of Grimthorpe House, Percival Street, east London and now of no fixed address; Iris Mills, aged 21, and Roma Bennett, aged 23, both of Kensington Gardens Square, Bayswater. They all deny conspiracy to rob and variously plead not guilty to unlawful possession of arms, possession of explosive substance in circumstances giving rise to a suspicion that it was an unlawful object, and handling stolen firearms knowing or believing them to be stolen.

The summing up continues

## Revie resignation involved

### deceit, court is told

By Craig Selton

Deceit was involved in the whole episode surrounding Mr. Don Revie's resignation as manager of the England team, the High Court was told yesterday. Mr. Robert Johnson, QC, for the Football Association, told Mr. Justice Canale: "He is a man who can depart from the proper course if it suits his book. He is not a witness on whom you can rely."

Mr. Johnson was completing his closing speech in the second week of the hearing in which Mr. Revie is challenging the association's 10-year ban on his return to league football.

He said the FA had found Mr. Revie guilty of deceit in certain respects when he resigned in July, 1977, and became manager of the national team of the United Arab Emirates.

The whole episode, he said, involved deceit. He had abandoned his responsibilities to his team mates, he had worn dark glasses and used a false name when travelling to Dubai and he had

earned a substantial sum by

telling a newspaper of his decision to quit.

Mr. Johnson asked: "What sort of man is it who asks for a substantial salary, plus or minus £5,000, to offer his resignation, when he has got a contract in his pocket?"

Mr. Gilbert Gray, QC, in his closing speech for Mr. Revie, said the former England manager had received a lot of criticism, but it would be unjust to paint him black. He had said that when he did was bad, and that if he was in that position again he would not repeat it. The ban was out of all proportion. There is no justification or reason for doing to Mr. Revie what they did," he said.

Mr. Revie had been criticized for asking for two years' salary when he resigned, but under his management profits to the association from England's international games had increased.

The judge said he would give judgment on Monday or later.



Mr. George Hedges, a senior gardener at London Zoo, who is retiring this month after 30 years, bidding an early farewell to a bushy-tailed friend yesterday.

## Editor says report was fair

An article in *The Daily Telegraph* alleged to have been libellous was defended in the High Court yesterday by the newspaper's editor, Mr. William Deedes.

A former Derbyshire CID chief claims that the article libelled him by linking his move back into uniform with alleged criticism of the search for William Hughes, an escaped prisoner who killed four people before being shot dead.

Mr. Deedes told Mr. Justice O'Connor that he refused to print an apology because he could not see that the report, headlined "Massacre search CID chief goes back in uniform" bore the implications which Chief Supt. Alfred Horobin, now divisional commander at Alfreton, laid against it.

Mr. Deedes, who has also denied acting maliciously towards Mr. Horobin, said both report and headline were balanced, and after studying reports in other newspapers he had concluded that the *Telegraph* had "properly given the most comprehensive account."

Mr. Horobin sued *The Daily Telegraph* Ltd., Mr. Deedes, and Mr. Stanley Goldsmith, a reporter, claiming damages.

Mr. Alfred Mitchell, an assistant chief constable for Derbyshire, giving evidence on subpoena, said that there had been an internal inquiry. He was satisfied that any criticism against police officers in the case was "not well founded". Mr. Horobin was "an extremely good detective."

Judgment will be given today.

## Social trends: report shows doubling of real disposable incomes

### The 10 million who are haunted by poverty

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

More than 10 million people were living in poverty or on its margins last year, despite the doubling of real disposable incomes since 1951. The poor made up 23 per cent of all families in the United Kingdom and a fifth of the total population.

Those figures were disclosed yesterday in the new edition of *Social Trends*, published by the Stationery Office. Although income tax and national insurance contributions have taken a rising proportion of people's earnings, real disposable incomes more than doubled between 1951 and 1978.

But by the end of the period 1,260,000 families were living on incomes below the subsistence level set by supplementary benefits. Another 710,000 were receiving supplementary bene-

fit and 2,010,000 had incomes above that level but within 20 per cent of it. Together, those families consisted of 10,070,000 people, 4,600,000 of them over pension age.

The report pointed out that social security benefits have contributed a growing share of incomes over the past 30 years, rising from 3.4 per cent in 1951 to 7.4 per cent in 1978.

That was partly caused by rising numbers of pensioners and growing unemployment but other benefit changes had their impact, too. By 1978-79, the cost of child benefits had risen to £13.06m, almost as much as the £13.80m paid in supplementary benefits to all claimants under pension age.

Two charts in the report demonstrated graphically the impact on low-income families of the "poverty trap" under which families lose means-

tested benefits like family income supplement and free school meals.

One chart showed that, in theory, a married couple with two children aged four and six could end up nearly 50p a week worse off for an extra £1 of earnings.

The report pointed out that in practice that was unlikely to happen, since not all benefits were cut off immediately. But 360,000 families stood to gain less than 50p a week from an increase of £1 in gross wages.

However, the redistributive effects of taxes and benefits reduced the gap between the poorest and richest households quite markedly. Top incomes before taxes and benefits were more than 500 times as great as the lowest in 1977, but afterwards the proportion was reduced to five to one.

That still meant that people

with average incomes of £11,080 a year were left with net incomes of £7,890, while the poorest tenth had their incomes brought up to £1,710 a year.

*Social Trends* stated that it could not produce a complete picture of incomes, because there was little data on the "hidden economy", or on wealth.

The proportion of wealth owned by the most wealthy 1 per cent of the population dropped from 33 per cent in 1966 to 24 per cent by 1977, and the share enjoyed by the bottom half of the population increased from 3.5 per cent to 5 per cent over the same period.

However, the wealthiest tenth still owned 61.1 per cent by 1977, a drop of 7.6 per cent during a period when total wealth measured rose by more than 300 per cent.

## Trolleybuses may return with fewer overheads

By Michael Baily

Transport Correspondent

London's popular trolleybuses, phased out in 1962, may be back within 10-15 years, according to a study by the Greater London Council.

The main attraction is not so much that they are clean, quiet and comfortable, but that they can use a variety of energy sources at a time when oil is likely to be getting prohibitively expensive.

A big technical advance since the old trolleybuses, which required a costly and unsightly network of overhead power wires, is that being combined batteries and trolley (Combat) propelled, they would need overhead wires for only a third of the network, and not at complicated junctions like Piccadilly Circus.

In the late 1930s London had the world's biggest trolleybus fleet, with about 1,700 vehicles operating about a fifth of the total bus routes.

Urging a full assessment of the scope for replacing diesel by Combat buses in the 1990s, the study forecasts decreasing availability of oil for the rest of this century, sharply higher real prices in the next decade, and some form of rationing thereafter.

Although car commuters are comparatively much bigger users than London Transport, which spends only £30m, or 7 per cent of its budget, on fuel, the effect of higher prices on movement patterns will not be great, the study suggests: a 50 per cent rise in real petrol prices, on past experience, affects peak-hour car traffic by only 3.3 per cent. 24-hour weekday flows by 5 per cent, and weekend flows by 10 per cent.

## Cuts affecting old and handicapped 'unacceptable in a just society'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government is asking for social service cuts that will diminish the prospects of the elderly and the handicapped, children and families to an extent "that should be unacceptable in a just society", a council statement said.

Both statutory and voluntary sectors now face a mismatch of resources and responsibilities that neither greater cost effectiveness in service provision nor attempts to in-

crease community participation, desirable as both are, can hope to reconcile.

The council pointed out that the social services provide for the vital needs of the most vulnerable people, the elderly, physically and mentally handicapped, mentally ill and children at risk. Yet no explanation had been given why those services were being asked for disproportionate cuts, when other services, such as law and order and health, were being protected.

If the Government did not in-

crease its expenditure White Paper and rate support grant assumptions to be taken as guidelines for local spending decisions, it should say so. But if ministers were content that local authorities should respond in that way, that should be made public.

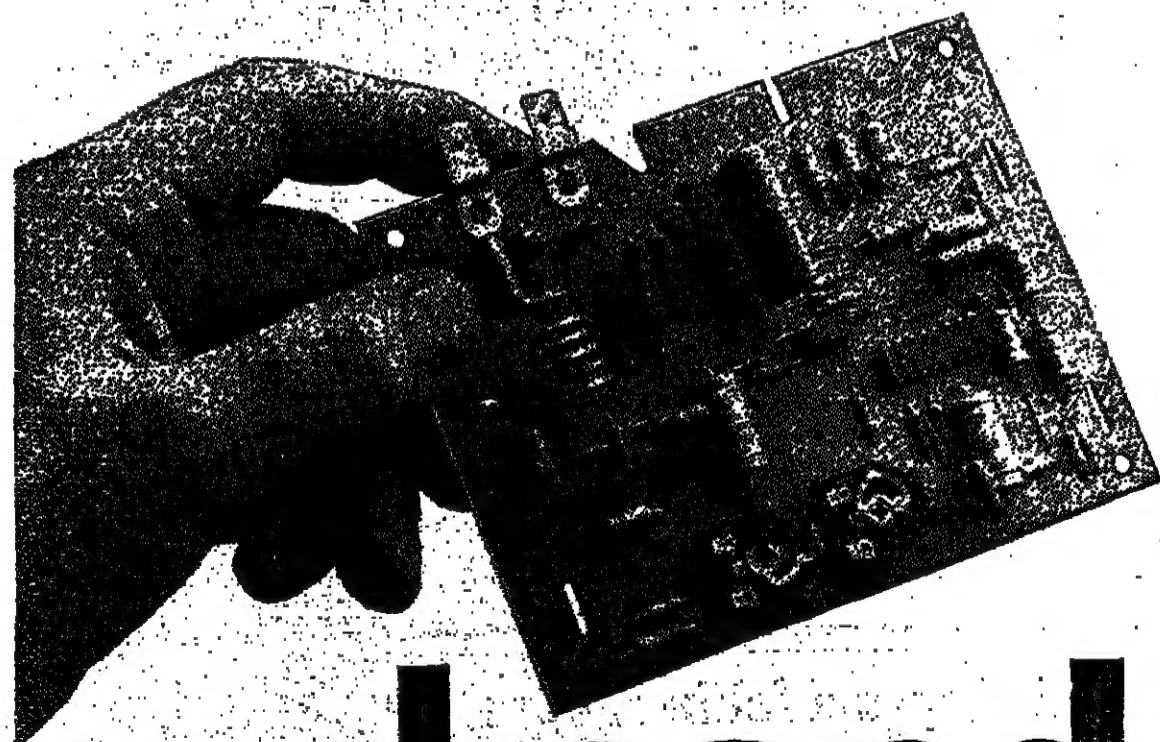
Social services were already inadequate, in some respects grossly so, and facing greater pressures from the rapidly increasing numbers of very elderly people. If expenditure was maintained at present levels, standards would decline.

But social services were facing cuts of 9 to 10 per cent in real terms.

"There is no way in which this can be achieved without cutting deep into the fabric of services," the council said. "In the current year authorities are making real cuts in provision, not merely abandoning planned growth. Unless a decision is taken to protect the social services, the cuts to be far greater and far more damaging."

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## HOME NEWS

## Emergency ambulance service 'industrial relations battlefield'

From Ronald Kershaw

Investigations looking into emergency cover provided by South Yorkshire metropolitan emergency ambulance service found that the service had been "an industrial relations battlefield" over recent years.

They reported "deep feelings of frustration, mistrust and insecurity" throughout the service and called for an end to restrictive practices which prevented the service from working at maximum efficiency.

The report was commissioned by the Trent Regional Health Authority after public anxiety had been aroused by statements to the local press about the efficiency of the service after three men were disciplined.

The authority said last night that two assistant controllers had been dismissed on the ground of misconduct in that they failed to fulfil their duties to deploy ambulances properly. The two men were to appeal.

The third man had received a written warning for issuing misleading statements to the press that there were insufficient ambulances to cover the Sheffield area. The authority will decide on Monday what action to take on the report's recommendations.

The investigators, Mr Donald Carter, chief metropolitan ambulance officer for Greater Manchester, and Mr L. M. Clegg, Trent regional ambulance officer, reported "deep-seated suspicion" among all ranks.

That, they said, illustrated "the low morale and lack of confidence in senior management and the Trent regional health authority to resolve a number of long-standing issues".

The South Yorkshire ambulance service had been "an industrial relations battlefield almost continually since NHS reorganization in 1974". There had been efforts to resolve difficulties, but they represented

much discussion with limited positive action.

There was a shared feeling between management and staff that joint consultation and negotiating machinery had become non-productive and industrial relations were in a declining spiral.

Many of the difficulties began when the service was selected for a pilot study for a national ambulance incentive bonus scheme. The divided views of senior management on the implementation of the scheme had led to a divided service with differing interpretations on badly written local agreements, the investigators said.

The report listed seven restrictive practices, including ambulance use restrictions; manning duties restrictions; failure to use mobile radio to report arrivals and departures at hospitals; which restricted control; poor turnout times on work schedules; lack of co-operation; abuse of the meal breaks system; inaccurate completion of report forms. Team spirit, it said, was non-existent.

Far from an integrated service under one central control, the report said, there were at least four separate services operating under one roof, each with different deployment methods. The control room was badly designed and equipped. There was complete mistrust of management.

There were sufficient manpower and vehicle resources in South Yorkshire to provide an adequate emergency and non-emergency ambulance service.

Restrictive practices must be removed and a much more flexible approach to vehicle utilization and deployment adopted, the report said. It concluded that it would be wrong to blame any individual or group of persons and added: "The present situation has been caused by a combination of factors often beyond the control of individuals".

## Warning by coroner on pothole explosions

From John Charteris

Skipton

Forhoes and cavers were warned by a coroner yesterday of the dangers involved in using explosives underground.

Mr Miles Coverdale, coroner for the Claro district of North Yorkshire, recorded verdicts of accidental death on two men who, it was stated, were probably overcome by carbon monoxide fumes after letting off 30lb of explosive in the Cote Gill Pot, in the Yorkshire Dales. They were trying to break through to other passages and caves.

Evidence was given that the two men, Police Constable Richard Marvel, aged 25, of Ilkley, and Mr John Strainforth, aged 30, a design engineer, of Guiseley, had some knowledge of explosives.

Mr Michael Foster, who farms land near the pothole entrance, said he had refused permission to PC Marvel to use explosives underground on two occasions. Farmers were afraid of pollution, diversion of water supplies.

The coroner said that the most probable explanation for the deaths of the two men was that they detonated the explosion from the surface and went down into the pothole two or three hours later, not appreciating the danger from the carbon monoxide, which they could not smell.

They made another mistake in not arranging for someone else to stay on the surface when they reentered the pothole.

He praised members of the Upper Wharfedale rescue team and the White Rose Pot-holing Club who found the bodies. Mrs Yvonne Wilson, wife of Mr Barrie Wilson, secretary of the White Rose club, who went into the pothole without breathing apparatus with her husband.

Up to 40 rescuers were involved in a three-day operation to recover the bodies.

The coroner said that it provided a challenge, but if those taking part did not observe rules and safety procedures they could endanger not only themselves but other people as well.

## Officers charged

Five police officers have been suspended in Bournemouth and are due to appear in court on December 21, Mr Robert Bates, deputy chief constable of Dorset, said yesterday. No charges have been announced.

## BMA defers 'ban' on 3-day sickness benefit forms

By John Roper

Certification of sickness has been seen by the BMA as one of the most time-wasting tasks of doctors for more than 15 years. In a year general practitioners sign about 500,000 short-term certificates. Various attempts have been made to study the issues without satisfactory outcome.

Industrial companies and the Department of Health and Social Security are against a system of certification of illness. Many meetings between doctors' leaders and department officials have failed to produce firm proposals; but the BMA is under pressure to get a solution.

Family doctors issue between absence certificates a day.

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## Danger to children from alcoholic parents

Unless the rise in alcohol abuse is halted the number of children under 14 who suffer physical or emotional bruising at the hands of parents who drink will "increase dramatically", the National Council on Alcoholism warned yesterday.

The council's director, Mr Derek Rutherford, said half a million children were already affected.

Mr Rutherford said that although there was concern about increased drinking among children and young people, little attention was paid to the

traumatic effects on children of adult drinking.

There could be long-lasting effects on a child's development physically, mentally and socially, he said.

Studies of children with alcoholic parents, Mr Rutherford said, showed they were more prone to suffer from emotional disturbance at school, had more difficulty making friends, had more involvement with the police, took part in more delinquent activities, and tended to develop drinking problems of their own.

## Family seek inquiry into prisoner's death

From Our Correspondent

The family of Mr George Wilkinson, aged 33, who died late on Wednesday night in Liverpool prison, yesterday demanded an inquiry.

They have asked Mr Mark Hughes, Labour MP for Durham, to investigate what they say are glaring discrepancies in the information the family received from the prison.

Mr Hughes said last night that he had asked the Home Office for a report.

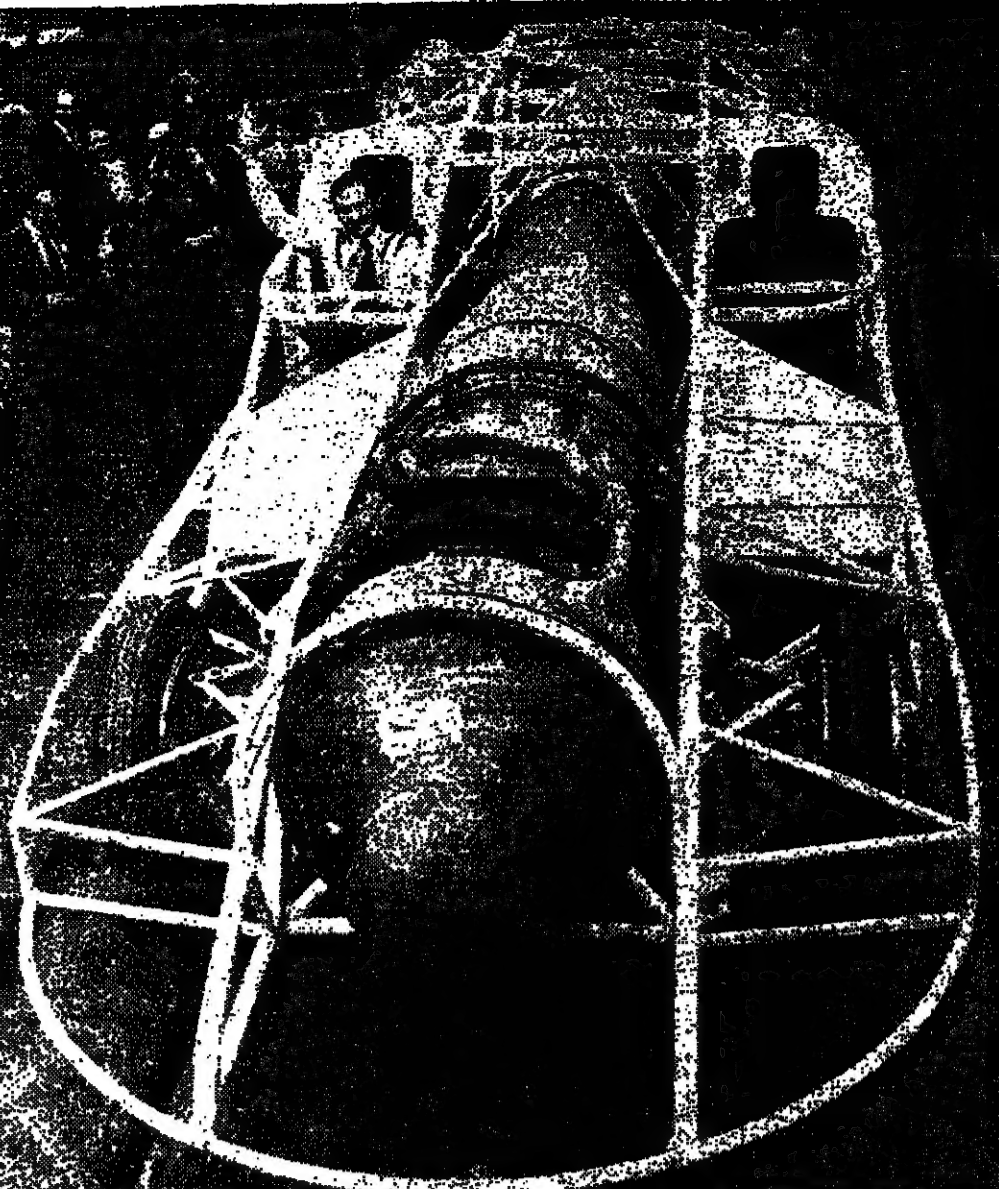
Mr Fred Wilkinson, the dead man's brother, said: "The statement that George died after being on hunger strike for two weeks is nonsense. He was strong and healthy, 6ft 2in and 16 stones, and would never have succumbed so quickly."

Police who relayed a message from the prison said he died from a heart attack, but he never had any heart trouble.

Mr Wilkinson and his mother, Mrs Lena Wilkinson, were the last members of the family to see him when he visited him at Durham Prison two months ago. After that he was moved to Manchester, and then, a few days ago to Liverpool.

Mr Wilkinson said: "We could tell there was something wrong. He looked as though he had been through a lot. I don't know why he was moved so rapidly from prison to prison."

Mrs Wilkinson said her son was in solitary confinement and it was "getting him down". When Mrs Wilkinson had not



Mr Richard Noble seated in the partially completed jet-engine car.

## Challenger for speed title unveiled

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

The Thrust 2 jet-engine car, which is to attempt the first British challenge for the world land speed record since 1964, made its public debut in London yesterday. Preliminary tests indicate that the car is capable of reaching 680 mph.

Powered by a Rolls-Royce Avon turbo engine, with a tubular steel frame, Thrust 2 is 50 per cent completed and should be ready for its first

run next summer. After trials in Britain it will be taken abroad for the record attempt, probably early in 1981.

Mr Richard Noble, the driver and project leader, said yesterday that Thrust 2 was the most powerful car ever built in Britain, with six times the horsepower of Donald Campbell's Bluebird, which last held the world land speed record for Britain at 403 mph.

The current world record of 622.407 mph was set by Gary Gebelich, the American driver, at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, in a rocket-engine car, the Blue Flame, nine years ago.

More than 30 British companies have lent their support to Project Thrust, which started

in 1974 with a jet-powered car built by Mr Noble in the garage of his house at Twickenham. After successful demonstrations the car crashed at high speed on RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, in March, 1977, and Mr Noble said it is a scrap yard for £175.

But he immediately announced plans for a Thrust 2 and after exhibiting at the London Motor Fair in 1977, managed to raise £6,000 towards its cost. Intended originally as a demonstration car only, Thrust 2 showed up so well in wind tunnel tests that the world record was considered to be within its grasp.

Just over 27 feet long, the car can accelerate to 600 mph from a standing start in 22 seconds, according to provisional estimates.

## American captain claims a 98% success role for his good will seminars

## Manna in the heavens for those who fear to fly

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Hope for those with a fear of flying, known in the business as "aviophobia", or the white-knuckle brigade, lies in Captain Truman Cummings, a tall, slim and very confident former Pan American Airways pilot now in his early 60s.

Captain Cummings is due in London early in January to hold a seminar intended to rid people of such fears. There will be five classroom sessions, an inspection tour of a Pan Am Boeing jumbo jet at Heathrow airport, and finally a "graduation flight" on board one of the airline's regular services to Frankfurt.

There each of the successful students will be presented with a diploma certifying that he or she "reluctantly, but courageously left planet earth".

The course will cost each participant £100, including the flight to Frankfurt and a night in a hotel there. Cap-

tain Cummings expects it to be sold out.

His optimism is well founded, for under the aegis of his former airline he has run 14 such seminars in cities in the United States for a total of 2,000 fearful flyers; and he claims a 98 per cent success rate.

People who recoiled from the thought of leaving the ground, including one woman who could not bring herself to touch the fuselage of an airliner, now happily fly many thousands of miles a year.

In many cases the conquering of their fear has altered their lives. Captain Cummings said when he passed through London this week.

The transition is done in the gentlest possible manner. Students are taught by the captain, helped by a woman psychologist, how to relax. "Wiggle your toes on take-off", is one piece of advice aimed at distracting the fearful.

Captain Cummings explains how an airliner flies, what keeps it up in the air and the meaning of the various bumps, groans and shrieks which emanate from its airframe and engines during flight, which can prove hair-raising to a nervous passenger.

"What we have to do is to remove the fear of the unknown," the captain said. "In most people we have to overcome the fear of dying, although in many men the fear of indulging in embarrassing behaviour—crying, or losing control—is almost as great as that of losing their lives."

"I tell them that flying is 25 times as safe as driving a car, but it is not really brought home to them until the moment after takeoff on the graduation flight when there is such euphoria among the students that it communicates itself to the other passengers on board."

Captain Cummings turns up a

sheaf of letters from satisfied former students.

"My wife is now flying everywhere. Can you get her deprogrammed?" one says. "The scars on my husband's arm have now healed," a woman who used to hold on tightly all through the flight writes.

Inevitably the captain is asked whether what works in America will work in Britain.

"We succeeded in Boston," he replies. "Are the upper lips any tenser there than they are in London?"

Is there not an element of commercialism in the scheme—to sell more tickets for Pan Am? "No, it is purely a goodwill programme. Former fearful flyers probably travel more on United States domestic airlines than on Pan Am."

Has the captain ever been frightened in the air? "Oh, yes. When I was a bomber pilot in the World War Two, I was really terrified."

The companies promoting the scheme, C. Rudens Developments and Hilton International, have until December 18 to deliver financial guarantees, but Mr Waight said that it appeared they would not be provided.

Meanwhile, in Lorton Road, on the opposite side of the Usher Hall, is a deserted five-acre railway goods yard, which is perhaps the most important development site in Edinburgh.

Against strong opposition from the minority Labour group, the policy and resources committee yesterday agreed that the council should carry out a study to develop the site as a headquarters for the Distillers Company, with a conference centre linked to an extension of the Caledonian Hotel. The original scheme was for a larger, £18m, conference centre to be built.

But after the meeting Mr Cornelius Waight, leader of the Conservative group, confirmed that it was very doubtful that the £15m Hilton Hotel planned for the Castle Terrace site, behind the Usher Hall, would be built.

Attention was centred on the issue during the second reading in the Lords in February of the Greater Manchester Bill, deposited in Parliament in November, 1978. Peers strongly criticized the council for imposing a clause proposing restrictions similar to those already disallowed in four metropolitan county Bills deposited the previous year. These four Bills, it was pointed out, themselves largely repeated proposals rejected in earlier Bills.

Although further attempts were thought unlikely, and Greater Manchester's scheme was quietly withdrawn, the clause, the focus of county Bills, included two, those promoted by Derbyshire and Hum-

bershire, which had proposed similar restrictions in draft form. These were dropped only a month before being deposited.

The clause in the Derbyshire Bill, which aimed at designating "green" areas in which owners would have had to obtain planning permission to park a caravan in their gardens, is understood to have been included against the advice of parliamentary agents and abandoned only in the face of local protest.

Passion against the Bills has included the Royal Yachting Association and the Caravan Club, which estimates its costs in fighting one of the actions at £5,000.

The club, whose members account for about half the esti-

mated 400,000 touring caravanners in Britain, called for a national policy decision to replace the present piecemeal approach. Some 200 local councils have yet to bring forward Bills.

"Obviously we are worried at the prospect of further restrictions being proposed in these Bills, but unless there is a national policy all we can do is make applications individually," it said.

"Most people with caravans tuck them away in their back gardens in any case, and there are simply not enough facilities for them elsewhere. We would have thought local authorities could be saving manpower, time and money by directing their energies to more important social issues."

However, for universities its most controversial power would strip them of much of their autonomy by allowing authority inspectors to scrutinize and accredit all engineering courses. Those that failed to come up to standard would be stripped of their right to award proposed new degrees of Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Engineering.

The new authority would also be given control of some university finances. The extra funds needed to implement the other Finiston education proposals, such as longer courses, more industrially trained staff, and improved student ratios, would be earmarked for that purpose by the University Grants Committee.

At present about £200m is spent on engineering education each year. The Finiston plan would add up to £40m to that bill.

It also proposes a radical restructuring of university and polytechnic engineering degree courses. The present system of BSc, BA and MSc degrees in engineering would be replaced by two more practically based degrees, BEng and MEng.

## Students seek 36% rise in maintenance grant

By Diana Gaddes

Education Correspondent

Students are to ask the Government for a 36 per cent rise in their maintenance grant next year. That would bring the weekly term-time rate for a student living away from home to £1,485. Some 400,000 students would be affected.

The claim, drawn up by the national executive of the National Union of Students, will be presented to the union's annual conference, which opens in Blackpool today.

It is expected, if approved, it will be submitted to the Department of Education and Science for the Government's annual review of student awards.

The department wrote in August, asking for the students' views on rates and the structure of the award system.

If the students get what they are asking for, the rates will go up from £1,485 to £2,020 for a student living away from home in London; from £1,245 to £1,694 for a student living away from home outside London; and from £1,340 for a student living at home.

The claim would cost an extra £100m a year. In addition, students are asking for the abolition of the parental contribution, and the extension of mandatory awards to all students over the age of 16 in full or part-time education, both changes to be phased over three years.

The total cost of the package would be about £300m, the NUS estimates. That was an investment for the future that the country must make, it said. In the vital task of economic recovery, Britain could not afford to waste the opportunity to enhance the skills and training of all its people.

The 36 per cent claim is based on a 20 per cent allowance to cover the effects of inflation; 4.6 per cent to make up for the effect of the Budget switch in June, from direct to indirect taxation (students did not benefit because they pay no tax on grants); and a further 11.5 per cent which was not dealt with in last year's claim, the NUS says.

But perhaps the biggest nonsense of all, the union says, was the implication that heads were heavily dependent on the local authorities' professional and advisory staff in arriving at decisions concerning the future well-being of the pupils in their care.

Only recently local authorities were paying tribute to the professional staff heads had coped with the difficulties arising from disruption of schools by industrial action. But now they were seeking to downgrade heads for what could be only a marginal effect on the final salary award.

Mr Clifford Hayes, senior assistant secretary of the union, said: "When you suit the local authorities, heads are responsible for everything that goes on in their schools. But when it comes to salaries they are just another group of hired hands."

The union was confident that Professor Clegg would not be misled by this "duplicitous" but it was bound to have an adverse effect on relations between local authorities and head teachers, he said.

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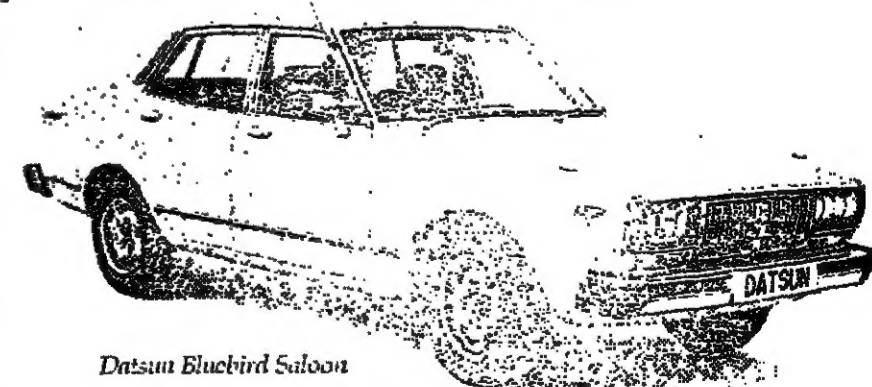
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DECEMBER 7-13, 1979

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**EXCLUSIVE**

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**EXCLUSIVE**  
THE SHAH  
TELLS  
HIS OWN  
STORY



**HOW AMERICA  
OVERTHREW ME**



## WEST EUROPE

## The Schmidt sparkle brings party into line

From Patricia Clough  
Berlin, Dec 6

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt stands here this week at the peak of his career, his party now firmly behind him, his authority, abilities and prestige at a maximum.

The Social Democratic Party congress has become indisputably the Chancellor's congress. Despite spirited challenges to two of his key policies by the left wing the curious gap between the party and its more moderate, pragmatic Chancellor, has been sealed.

It has left Herr Schmidt, rather than Herr Willy Brandt, the Social Democrats' chairman and charismatic figure, as the leader of the party. With this kind of support he can face with even greater confidence the forthcoming battle with Herr Franz Josef Strauss in next year's Bundestag elections.

The process of fusion with his party probably began with a brilliant speech on Tuesday morning, which brought the party to its feet applauding. He made no concessions on the central issues, but explained eloquently why there was no alternative to his realistic, if somewhat unpalatable policies.

It was followed on Wednesday by an even more sparkling and impassioned off-the-cuff defence of his reputed policy of medium range nuclear missiles. He was rewarded by an overwhelming majority estimated at about 90 per cent, far more than had been expected.

The atmosphere in the Chancellor's circles at the social get-together in East Berlin today was euphoric. Not only did Herr Schmidt now have full backing when the Nato council meets to decide on the stationing of the missiles in western Europe next week, but also complete approval in dealing with his eastern European neighbours.

The vote was a final defeat for attempts by the Communist bloc to drive a wedge between the Chancellor and sections of his party with offers on disarmament and threats to the future of its *Isopolit*.

The pullback of the first of 1,000 Soviet tanks and 20,000 troops from East Germany, suspected here to have been carefully stage-managed to coincide with the debate, had no effect.

The party has yet to vote on another key issue, the use of nuclear energy, and it seems unlikely that the Chancellor will get such a large majority on this more complex and difficult issue. Nevertheless, the spirit of the congress will almost certainly remain unchanged.

His success seems even more remarkable since many in his party do not care for him personally. He can be cocky and arrogant, gratuitously rude, and unnecessarily sharp with his critics. He has allowed over the past couple of years and tried hard to be more tolerant of others but he easily irritates people.

Much, however, is also due to the fact that he is the most critical left wing leader there is no alternative to Herr Schmidt. Without him, they could well lose the elections and see Herr Strauss become Chancellor.

Herr Schmidt is their trump card, the right man for the times. He has been a supremely competent, tough, reliable Chancellor who has brought the country safely through five difficult years and who can offer an element of stability in the uncertain years to come.

The theme of the congress is security in the eighties, a message which appeals to Germans who, owing to their disastrous past, and deep national instincts, crave for safety and reliability. For this reason, the sharpest attacks on Herr Schmidt have been accusations of unpredictability. A victory for Herr Strauss, the Social Democrats claim, would be a gamble, a political adventure which would destroy West Germany's own reliability and credibility in the world. With Herr Schmidt, they are in good hands.

As Herr Schmidt's sun appeared to reach its zenith, Herr Brandt's began to wane. Both in his opening speech and in talks with smaller groups Herr Brandt appeared to have lost his old fire.

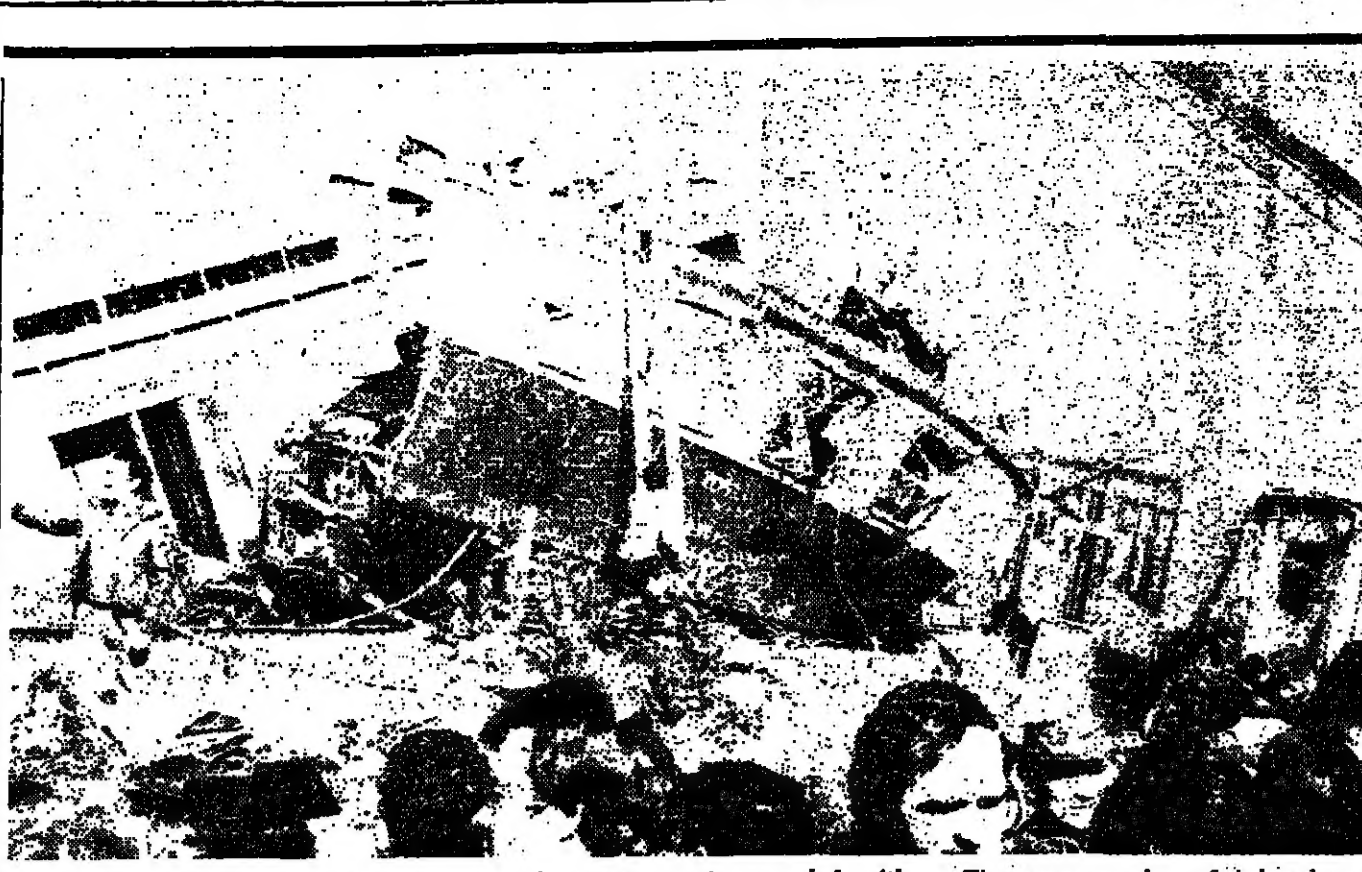
Leading article, page 7777

## Spanish Minister demands negotiations over Gibraltar

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Dec 6

A new diplomatic offensive for recognition of Spanish sovereignty over Gibraltar was launched here today by Señor Marcelino Oreja, the Foreign Minister. He said he placed his trust in "the pragmatic sense which the British have always demonstrated".

The Foreign Minister made what was obviously a policy speech on the Gibraltar relations before the foreign relations committee of the Senate, the Upper House of the Spanish



Two-train crash: Wreckage near Barcelona

Two-train crash: Wreckage near Barcelona of two trains in which 18 people died and 85 were injured, several seriously after one, apparently unmanned, came down a slope and hit the other, Our Madrid Correspondent writes.

The head-on crash between a north-

bound morning train crowded with passengers and a southbound runaway goods train happened near the Las Franqueras station about 18 miles north of Barcelona. The goods train crew had got out to check a possible mechanical failure when the train started drifting down

The exact number of injured was hard to determine initially because they were taken to several hospitals in the Barcelona area. Some of the dead could not be immediately identified, and there were fears that more victims might be found

## Warsaw Pact urges West not to deploy missiles and offers talks

From Gretel Spitzer  
Berlin, Dec 6

Foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact alliance ended a two-day meeting in East Berlin today with a fresh appeal to Nato not to deploy medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

A lengthy communiqué, published by the East German Communist Party newspaper *Neues Deutschland* today, contains an interesting new formula keeping the door open for negotiations.

Whereas until now Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and other Soviet

block officials insisted that a Nato decision to produce and deploy medium-range nuclear missiles would destroy the basis for arm control talks, the communiqué said that the negotiations would become impossible when these plans were "realized".

The communiqué also notes that the meeting considered it important that no action should be undertaken which would complicate the situation in Europe and could become an obstacle to negotiations.

"In this context, the participants of the meeting declare that the acceptance of a resolution on the production and the stationing of new kinds of medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe and the realization of this resolution would destroy the basis for negotiations. It would be an attempt by Nato to conduct negotiations from a position of strength that would be fundamentally unacceptable to the states of the Warsaw Pact."

Other pointers in the communiqué also indicate the East's interest in further negotiations. The great significance of the Salt 2 agreement is emphasized and the foreign ministers urge that, immediately after Salt 2, the ratification of negotiations on Salt 3 should begin.

The communiqué reaffirms support for the Warsaw Pact powers' proposal, made on May 15, 1979, for an all-European political conference. At this conference, détente and disarmament, as well as confidence-building measures could be discussed.

The unilateral withdrawal of Soviet tanks and troops from East Germany that began yesterday was used by the communiqué to illustrate that progress could be made

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The communiqué reaffirms support for the Warsaw Pact powers' proposal, made on May 15, 1979, for an all-European political conference. At this conference, détente and disarmament, as well as confidence-building measures could be discussed.

The unilateral withdrawal of Soviet tanks and troops from East Germany that began yesterday was used by the communiqué to illustrate that progress could be made

## Dutch put case to US today

From Our Correspondent  
Amsterdam, Dec 6

Mr Andries van Agt, the Dutch Prime Minister, will meet President Carter in Washington tomorrow to discuss plans for the modernization of Nato's theatre nuclear forces. This surprise move was announced in The Hague today.

Mr van Agt will travel to Washington from London where he met Mrs Thatcher today to discuss the same issue. He has already had similar talks with the Belgian and Italian Prime Ministers.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization will be meeting in Brussels next week to take a final decision on the modernization issue and the Dutch Government is under heavy pressure to agree to a Nato decision to deploy the new missiles.

Although the Government has made it clear that it refuses to have its hands tied by Parliament in this matter, it is a vote of no confidence if a satisfactory solution is not found in Brussels.

A majority of members of the Dutch Parliament want Nato to suspend any decision on the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles pending negotiations with the Soviet Union. Rome: The Chamber of Deputies today approved a Nato plan to install cruise missiles in Italy as a counter to the deployment of the new Soviet SS20 missile. The vote was 328 in favour and 230, including the opposition Communist Party, against with five abstentions.

The Russian Orthodox Church has sent a telegram to the Pope and to the heads of a number of Christian churches in Europe expressing "deep concern" at the possibility of the stationing of Nato to deploy medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

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## Euro MP presses for rise in prices of all farm goods

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers in the EEC would offer strong opposition to any attempt to freeze their prices next year, Sir Henry Plumb, chairman of the agriculture committee of the European Parliament, said in London yesterday.

He believed that price increases were needed for all products governed by the common agricultural policy. That included milk for which prices were frozen by Community farm ministers early this year.

Sir Henry, a former president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, rejected the idea that the Community should cut its

spending by reducing common farm prices. "Some price increases are necessary, even if they do not go so far as to meet full increases in the costs of production."

He did not believe that the worst EEC food surpluses, in milk products and sugar, would persist for long. Sugar consumption was rising in developing countries and by the year more than a million cows would be slaughtered in a Community scheme to persuade dairy farmers to stop producing milk.

"It could be that in another year's time it could just go too far," Sir Henry said. "If we are going to plan for a market of 260 million consumers we have got to plan for plenty."

moned Barre, the Prime Minister. M Claude Labbé, the chairman of the RPR parliamentary group, said the media yesterday that M Barre had faced the group before deciding to pledge his Government's responsibility on the Bill to increase social security contributions of pensioners, "like a bullfight who has come to serve a writ on you".

Dr Pons thought that M Barre acted as if he wanted to leave the premiership, but the Gaullists would not help him to find a way out. President Giscard d'Estaing, in keeping him in office as an act of deliberate provocation.

Their quarrel is no longer with the Prime Minister regarded as a mere executor of the policy of the President himself, who is ultimately responsible for the deteriorating political situation. On European policy, on the budget, on reform of the social security system, the Gaullists had over the past couple of years made concrete proposals. But these had been ignored, and now they were being proved right.

The RPR secretary general admitted, however, that public opinion did not understand the Gaullist stand towards the Government; it was a difficult one, and Gaullist refusal to approve the budget or the social security Bill without going so far as to bring down the Govern-

ment was regarded as ambiguous. But the Gaullists knew they were right, and this would be demonstrated next year, when the media and social climate had further deteriorated, and the President's authority had suffered a setback both from this and from "affairs like those of Emperor Bokassa's diamond heist".

There is no doubt that the Gaullists feel France needs another man at the presidency—the reference to Mrs Thatcher was eloquent in this respect.

The more surprising therefore is the statement in an interview to the *Republique-Lorraine* by M Edmond Maire, secretary general of the leftist CFDT trade union organization that "whichever the candidate or candidates of the left, he will be defeated in the next presidential elections".

M Maire, whose new realistic approach to trade union politics since the left's defeat in the parliamentary election of 1978 has disconcerted even his own members, said that the Gaullists are not alone in their obstruction of any move towards left-wing unity.

The main concern of the CFDT, he said, "is not to take part in the battles of the left to know who will be beaten by President Giscard in 1981, but to give labour struggles a dynamism which contributes to the regeneration in depth of the forces of the left."

According to their published statistics, the Russians have this year sent Kampuchea 160,000 tons of food and 4,000,000 square metres of cloth, as well as tractors, lorries, medicine, medical instruments, soap, baby food and other emergency supplies.

Soviet aid is worth \$100m (more than £45m) on the world market. It arrives on the 85 aircraft or by ship to Kampong Som. Altogether about 1,500 tons of aid from the Soviet Union and its communist allies are unloaded daily at the port.

The Russians say the West is deliberately pushing up the scale of this assistance—though the figures are not properly displayed in Soviet newspapers at a time when many ordinary Russians are complaining of widespread consumer shortages.

At the same time the Soviet press daily accuses the West of trying to expunge its guilty conscience for the destruction of Kampuchea by reinforcing remnants of the Pol Pot gangs which the Russians admit are still operating on the Thai border.

Posting as "Humanitarian Savagery" the West was trying to legitimize shipment of supplies to these "gangs" and to interfere in Kampuchea's internal affairs.

The Russians are linked by treaty to Vietnam, and can only hope for a swift end to the fighting in Kampuchea which they fear may become Vietnam's "Vietnam"—a quagmire sapping their strategic ability of men, money and morale.

The Soviet press announced long ago that Pol Pot had been decisively defeated. *Inveria* explained the continued fighting last month by saying: "There is no armed conflict in the country. What is taking place is the liquidation of the people's government of groups of bandits who are supported by some foreign groups."

Beneath Soviet worry at the Khmer Rouge's continued resistance, there is serious concern at the repercussions of

## OVERSEAS

## Diplomat's election as President points to reforms in S Korea

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Seoul, Dec 6

Diminishing fears that President Park Chung Hee's death might herald in a era of political instability in South Korea, Mr Choi Kyu Hah, an experienced diplomat and outgoing Prime Minister, was elected President today.

Mr Choi, who is 60, became acting head of state immediately after General Park was assassinated on October 26. He was elected by 2,455 votes in the National Council for Unification, an electoral college consisting of 2,583 representatives.

Leaders of the Opposition, who are demanding that the President should be chosen by direct universal franchise, boycotted the election.

Mr Choi emerged as the only candidate. Officials said that 84 ballot papers had been invalidated.

Mr Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader who nearly defeated President Park in 1971, was kept under house arrest today.

Mr Kim, who had been placed under house arrest after being released from prison through an amnesty, is to be freed next week, government officials hinted.

A future candidate for power, Mr Kim Jong Pil, aged 53, the leader of the ruling Democratic Republican Party and a former Prime Minister announced last month that he would not contest the election.

To the surprise of a number of Western diplomats, the election today provided South Korea with a peaceful transition of power under President Park's constitutional provisions for a five-year term.

Although martial law is still in force, there was little evidence of the Army's presence in the streets of Seoul. Two tanks and a few armed guards were still stationed at Government headquarters, and other strategic buildings. A 10 pm curfew, imposed immediately after President Park's assassination, has been pushed back to midnight and expected political demonstrations have not materialized.

But there can be little doubt that South Korea has entered a new political era which will herald the end of the military rule described as a "constitution for Park, by Park, and of Park."

President Choi is installed in office for five years, but growing demands for a more liberal form of government indicate that he will act as an interim head of state until constitutional reforms are ratified by a referendum.

The National Assembly has already established a legislative and executive committee which is expected to draw up the draft of a new constitution. The main opposition force, the New Democratic Party today demanded that the constitution should be revised and a new presidential election held by August 15 next year, the anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule.

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## New Peking site for 'democracy wall'

Peking, Dec 6. — Peking officials said today that the capital's "democracy wall" would be moved to a less accessible spot on Saturday, but posters would still be permitted under official control.

The Peking Revolutionary Committee, the equivalent of city council, announced the regulations after sharp criticism in recent days of the vast-old forum for political activists.

A city spokesman inadvertently disclosed just how popular the "democracy wall" had become when he was quoted by the New China news agency as saying that crowds gathering there had spilled over on to Peking's main boulevard and blocked traffic. Chang An Avenue is exceptionally wide and lined with broad pavements that easily accommodate large crowds.

There was only a scattering of people at the wall today, scanning old posters on the brick side of a bus parking lot.

The new regulations say that from Saturday posters can be displayed publicly only in Yunnan Park, a vast open section of the capital. They would still be permitted within the confines of a person's work place.

Anyone wanting to paste a poster in the park would have to register his name, pseudonym, address and a place of work at a special office. This centre would not examine the poster, and its content would be the responsibility of the author, both politically and legally.

"It is forbidden to disclose state secrets, to fabricate information, to commit libel and conduct other actions that violate the law," the regulations said.

Criticism of the wall intensified after the jailing for 15 years of Wei Jingsheng, a political activist, for passing military secrets to a foreigner and counter-revolutionary activities. The latter charge referred to his writings on the wall.

The "democracy wall" has come under fire from members of the National People's Congress (Parliament), the press and city officials, who all demanded that it be "dealt with".

They described it as having a bad influence on the nation, and there was special criticism of activists alleged to have used it to establish close relations with foreigners—Reuters.

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## OVERSEAS

## Israeli Army begins reckoning up strategic cost of peace as 300 lorries carry out Sinai removal

From Christopher Walker, Rafidim, Sinai, Dec 6

Far removed from the niceties of the negotiating table, evidence of the high strategic price Israel is paying for its peace treaty with Egypt is to be found here among the remains of what used to be the nerve-centre of Israeli military operations in the Sinai.

Thousands of tons of military hardware, secret electronic material and prefabricated buildings have been transported back more than 100 miles across the desert to new bases in the Negev, inside Israel's 1948 boundaries. The rubbish left by 12 years of military occupation is now being fed daily to a giant bonfire.

When Egyptian troops move next month into Rafidim, 20 miles north of the Gidi pass, they will find a new camp, a renovated mosque and even some ageing British-built Nissan huts still intact. But under the terms of Operation Ramon, the Israeli Army's biggest peacetime exercise, all bunkers and other sensitive installations will have been destroyed by explosives.

"We will not be destroying anything just for the sake of it," explained General Haim of Israel's Southern Command. "Although we will be leaving the Egyptian desert of 400 buildings, many in better condition than we found them in 1967. They will also be getting roads, underground cables, and all our major water-supply systems."

The general was speaking to the foreign correspondents permitted to inspect the mechanics of a move which by April, 1982, will have seen the transfer of 61,000 square kilometres of Sinai to Egypt—an area two and a half times larger than the whole of Israel. Like many of

his senior colleagues, he had reservations about the treaty. "In my opinion we are giving away too much."

As well as injecting an estimated 25,000 tons of already overheated economy, the shift of the massive Israeli military machine from the Sinai back to the Negev is also posing serious problems for the military commanders.

According to General Haim, the most worrying will be the difficulty of obtaining early warning of a sudden attack by Egyptian tanks through the wastes of the Sinai.

"We shall be losing about 250 kilometres of vital buffer zone. To compensate, we shall have to ensure that our Army is always kept in a state of full alert," he said. "It is no use placing any trust in international observers."

Other problems for the Israelis are the loss of spacious training areas, the need to set up a new military infrastructure in the inhospitable Negev, and the difficulties of maintaining troops in a state of war readiness while undertaking the move.

Already 58 out of a total of 103 military installations have been switched. 22 Army camps have been rebuilt, and more than 85,000 tons of equipment moved in a fleet of 300 heavy lorries.

The hazardous desert roads bear daily witness to the fact that the Israeli Army is tackling peace with the same thoroughness it usually brings to war—even to the extent of carrying back the burnt-out shells of Egyptian tanks to use in target practice.

There are some military gains for Israel from the withdrawal—supply lines will be much shorter, and the smaller, more mobile boundaries, troops will

be easier to switch from one border to another, and the mobilization of the reserve army will become more efficient.

Senior officers have spent many hours reviewing tactics in case of another war with Egypt in Sinai. The Army's top priority will be to reoccupy the desert as fast as possible rather than to stay back fighting from the 1948 boundary, which is close to many Jewish settlements.

The statistics of Operation Ramon are easy to enumerate, but the psychological effects on the Israeli troops are more difficult to assess. There seems to be a split between those who feel that the peace process was a gamble worth taking and those who believe that the risks are too high.

Many officers regret abandoning the expanse of the Sinai desert for more intangible reasons. Lieutenant-Colonel Ehad, who at 33 is the veteran of three Sinai campaigns, explained: "As a romantic, I shall miss it a lot. The sunset, the views, and most of all the isolation. There was so much space. I felt this was my kingdom."

His tank unit has already moved back in advance of next month's hand-over to Egypt of a line stretching from El Arish on the Mediterranean coast to the Red Sea town of Ras Muhammad. That will give President Sadat possession of 70 per cent of the Sinai peninsula.

At the make-shift camp where Colonel Ehad's tank company was based until the beginning of last week, the burnt-out remains of a wooden notice board sunk in the sands. Designed to greet the Egyptian border guards who will arrive on January 26, it says simply: "We did not retreat—we left for peace."

Antarctic crash bodies flown to New Zealand

From Our Correspondent, Wellington, Dec 6

The first 114 bodies recovered from last week's DC10 air crash in Antarctica were flown to New Zealand today for identification.

Initially, police believed that fewer than 100 bodies of the 257 passengers and crew who perished in the disaster could be recovered from the icy slopes of Mount Erebus. But the expectation now is that perhaps 200 will be found and flown back to New Zealand.

Altogether, 160 bodies have been lifted from the crash site, and the bodies are being stored at McMurdo Sound. New Zealanders are being transported to New Zealand. The recovery operations are being hampered by clouds and turbulent winds.

China and Indonesia to discuss diplomatic links

From David Watts, Jakarta, Dec 6

China is to open negotiations for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Indonesia. So far no date has been set for the arrival of a Chinese negotiating party in Jakarta as there are a number of outstanding issues.

Not least of these is the question of more than a million Taiwanese passport holders out of Indonesia's four million residents of Chinese descent. Taiwanese citizens are to be asked to make the choice between becoming Indonesian citizens or taking Peking passports.

So far there is no indication of what will happen to those who choose neither. Technically they will become stateless but there will be no question of repatriating any of them, Mr. Moichu Kusuma Atmadja, the Foreign Minister, said.

Last month an Indonesian Minister was quoted as saying that those who refused both options would be repatriated. The Foreign Minister noted that already those Chinese who do not hold Indonesian passports are being asked to leave the country by the Government.

"Why would we create problems for ourselves by repatriating them? It's not State policy," the Minister said. He added that a number of Chinese would want to retain their Taiwanese passports, while many would switch to Peking now that the attempted communist coup of 1965 was fading from Indonesian memories.

Many Indonesians consider the events of September 30, 1965, were China's first, but unsuccessful, attempt to export its revolution. Some 500,000 people were killed in the anti-communist repression which followed.

With that trauma in the minds of the Indonesians there has been no hurry to establish relations with the Peking Government but it has been left to the Chinese to make most of the running in setting up links with South-East Asia's largest country.

With the exception of Singapore, all of the remaining countries which make up the Association of South-East Asian Nations have already established formal diplomatic relations with China.

Perhaps sensing a shift in policy over Indo-China, the North Vietnamese have quickly sought to remind President Suharto, the Indonesian leader, that he has already indicated his willingness to visit Hanoi. So far no date has been set for the visit.

Tito warning to clerics on Islam

From Dena Trevisan, Belgrade, Dec 5

Ayatollah Khomeini's ideas of Islamic revolution seem to have found a ready response among Yugoslavia's Muslim clergy and intellectuals. The Government, already alarmed by the upsurge of pan-Islamic feeling in general and its impact on the predominantly Muslim republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular, has lost no time in fighting back.

There is no ostensible evidence of any serious trouble. But, as everywhere else, Islam is enjoying a revival, and its message is evoking an increasingly enthusiastic response among the faithful. A campaign against Muslim religious leaders, who are accused of using religion to spread pan-Islamic nationalism, has been going on for several months.

Lately, however, the attacks on the clerics have become more specific. It came to a head when President Tito used the occasion of his visit to Bosnia to issue a threat of harsh action against the clerics who, by identifying national with religious feelings, were allegedly stirring up national intolerance.

In conversations with the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina he called for vigilance and said that such attempts to be nipped in the bud by "severe measures", if necessary.

With the Muslims now totaling well over three million out of a population of 22 million, Yugoslavia is obviously feeling the pressure of Islamic revival. This is especially true of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where 1,800 Muslim Slavs form the largest of the three ethnic communities, outnumbering the Serbs and the Croats.

The Serbs are Greek Orthodox and the Croats and Slovenes Catholic. Throughout centuries, all three communities have identified their national existence with their religion. In fact, some of the worst massacres were committed in Bosnia in inter-communal strife as recently as the Second World War.

Nowhere in Yugoslavia are the problems of multinational relations more apparent than in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Converted to Islam in the fourteenth century, the Bosnia Muslims ruled the province during the Ottoman occupation.

Caught in the quarrel between their former subjects,



Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, whose followers seized control yesterday in Tabriz, capital of Iran's Azerbaijan province.

## Senator Kennedy rebuked for remarks on Shah

From Patrick Brogan, Washington, Dec 6

Senator Edward Kennedy has been heavily criticized for attacking the former Shah of Iran for having "one of the most violent regimes in the history of mankind" and for "stealing uncounted billions from Iran".

He is criticized because he is running for President, and the tone of the attacks is reflected in a large headline on the front page of the New York Post yesterday: "Teddy the toast of Tehran".

The accompanying story alleges that the crowd outside the embassy where the hostages are being held chanted "Teddy for President" and otherwise manifested its approval of the senator's statements.

Mr. Kennedy has not withdrawn his remarks about the Shah, but has found it necessary to reaffirm his support for President Carter's policy of releasing the hostages.

Whatever substance there is in this suggestion, Mr. Kennedy's gaffe is being used by his opponents, especially President Carter, to illustrate their contention that he is unsuited to the Presidency.

tried to wind up the story today by saying that Mr. Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, had promised to consult the Senate before giving the Shah permanent asylum.

No one really disagrees very much with substance of what Mr. Kennedy said, although his hyperbole is deplored, and republicans such as Mr. John Connally and Dr. Henry Kissinger try to minimise the Shah's misdeeds.

The senator is under attack because of his timing being accused of breaking ranks with the national unity behind the President is essential.

The suggestion is that if Americans start debating the merits of the Shah's police methods and financial arrangements, the Iranian will believe that they are winning the propaganda battle, and that they should therefore continue to hold the hostages.

Even so, he was always looking back over his shoulder at the House of Commons. He saw his time in Europe as a grand tour, a most important one to be sure, which would eventually bring him back to Westminster. But just when the time and the opportunity seemed to coincide, his health let him down.

Then with a Labour Government in office, his political prospects looked rather slim. As a bank director, however, he kept in close touch with economic thinking in the party.

Mrs Thatcher's election and, as he put it, a "ver's certificate" for his recovery, gave him another and perhaps unexpected chance.

He found himself, at long last, back in the Cabinet, and characteristically has thrown himself into all kinds of new work, most recently struggling with Civil Service recruitment cuts.

Not least of Lord Soames's advantages is a happy family life. His wife Mary, youngest daughter of Sir Winston Churchill, has always maintained the kind of home where the English tradition of hospitality and much laughter go together.

The general said he expected the Carter Administration to request a budget of about \$300m (£150m) from Congress to create a fleet of support ships for the rapid deployment force.

Other officials said the plan also involved increasing the number of transport aircraft to move combat troops from United States bases to the trouble spots.—Reuter.

## Politics fun for Rhodesia's governor

By David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent

An aura of exuberance and good living has always surrounded the ample figure of Lord Soames, the newly designated Governor for Rhodesia, and has made him seem slightly larger than life.

In a period of technocrats and apparatchiks, he has shone forth as an individualist who enjoys politics as a man might enjoy hunting.

"What fun it all is," he was wont to exclaim, champagne cork in hand after a particularly hard bout of negotiation in the European Community, where he served as Vice-President of the Commission from 1973 to 1976. It must be doubtful if his new appointment, presiding over a fragile ceasefire and election campaign in Zimbabwe Rhodesia, will be such fun.

Lord Soames is not a man to shrink when asked to serve. He has had a long and active political career, and by overcoming a serious illness, partly induced by all the hard work and large meals he got through in Brussels, rose to the post of Lord President of the Council in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet.

Though very much a high Tory in style and background, Lord Soames succeeded in cutting across the party lines in Britain. After he lost his seat in the House of Commons in 1966, where he had been Minister of Agriculture in the Macmillan Government, he was not long before opportunity opened in a quite different direction, with the invitation from Sir Harold Wilson to take over the British Embassy in Paris in 1968.

The mansion built by the Duke of Wellington was a splendid setting for Lord Soames (or Christopher, as everyone knew him) to launch his diplomatic initiative to get Britain into the EEC, for as he well understood, the door to Brussels led through the Elysée Palace.

He got on very well with General de Gaulle, indeed almost too well. What became known as "The Soames Affair" nearly ruined his career. When the French President's indulgent reflections over lunch about the importance of Britain and France going together in the EEC, Lord Soames found himself in a somewhat indiscreet stage whisper from London to Bonn, Lord Soames found himself in a terrible trouble.

He survived, as he has a way of doing, and his stay in Paris undoubtedly helped pave the way for British membership of the Community. An ardent European, Lord Soames has never wavered in taking a wider view of the world than his opponents, especially President Carter, to illustrate their contention that he is unsuited to the Presidency.

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## RAF borrow US planes for Salisbury airlift

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The RAF has had to ask the United States Air Force to help in the airlift of the ceasefire monitoring force to Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

As a result of defence cuts, it has no aircraft of its own which can carry the Puma helicopters, needed to deploy detachments of the 1,200-strong force once it arrives. A request has gone to the USAF for the loan of a number of Starlifter and giant Galaxy freighters.

Ministry of Defence sources said the request had been favourably received in Washington. But the USAF has no Galaxy or Starlifters in Britain, which means that they will have to be flown across the Atlantic before the force is ready to leave.

The RAF's Belfast transport aircraft could have done the job, but these have been sold as a result of defence cuts. The last was taken out of service in 1978.

Other equipment, as well as the troops themselves, can be carried in RAF Hercules aircraft, about 45 of which are in operational use. But a Hercules can accommodate a Puma—which itself can carry up to 20 lightly armed troops—only if the helicopter is partially stripped down before the flight and reassembled at the other end.

Army Gazelle and possibly Scout helicopters will also be taken to Rhodesia for the use of the force, between 600 and 700 of whom will be supplied by Britain. The others will come from Australia, New Zealand, Kenya and Fiji.

The airlift will be mounted from RAF Brize Norton and RAF Lyneham, and soldiers who have been handicapped for the special assignment, were on standby last night. Negotiations about overflying rights and about one or more staging posts for the aircraft were continuing yesterday, however, and sources said that the force would probably not leave until Monday night at the earliest.

The tentative ceasefire agreement has also been welcomed by Congress. Mr Stephen Solari, chairman of the African subcommittee of the House of Representatives, said it was "one of the most brilliant diplomatic achievements of the postwar era".

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, deserved the Nobel Peace Prize for his virtuoso performance in initiating these extremely delicate negotiations and steering them to a successful conclusion," Mr Solari said. The agreement was a vindication of the "restraint and responsibility" shown by Congress and by the Administration in refusing to lift economic sanctions against Zimbabwe Rhodesia, he added.

The State Department today reiterated the Administration's intention of lifting sanctions promptly once a British Governor has arrived in Salisbury and the process towards new elections has begun.

Zimbabwe Bill gets fast passage

By Fred Emery, Political Editor

The British Government's Zimbabwe Bill, with the help of the Opposition, to be taken through all its Commons stages next Wednesday, and soon after through the Lords.

Of the Bill's six clauses perhaps the most potent for Britain is that concerning nationality which, in schedule one, allows the citizens of Zimbabwe Rhodesia to apply for registration as citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies up to 12 months after independence.

The commitment may be traditional but it has implications for immigration to Britain which will doubtless be explored in debate on the Bill, which was published yesterday.

In providing for independence, the Bill also grants an amnesty of criminal proceedings, or proceedings in tort, in connexion with Rhodesia's 1965 unilateral declaration of independence, in respect of any act committed or omitted before the date the new British Governor takes up his duties.

A written parliamentary answer last night disclosed that next year's election in Rhodesia would, on the 80 common roll seats, comprise eight electoral districts with numbers of seats varying according to the estimated number of voters.

Seats would be allocated in proportion to the valid votes cast for each party list in each district, with any party receiving less than 10 per cent of the vote in a district receiving no seats.

The 20 reserved white roll seats would be elected in 20 white roll constituencies.

The troops include a disproportionately large number of officers and NCOs because of the sensitive nature of the work. David Cross writes from Washington: The United States today welcomed the latest breakthrough in the Zimbabwe Rhodesia peace talks as a "historic accomplishment which reflects great credit on all the participants".

A few issues remained to be resolved, a statement by the State Department said, but the United States was confident that a settlement was near. The Administration urged all the participants to move towards a final agreement and said that they had its full support.

At the same time, a State Department spokesman announced that the United States Air Force was providing a number of giant C141 and C3 transport aircraft to help ferry equipment from Britain to Salisbury for the new peace-keeping force. It is understood that about 12 aircraft will be provided to carry about 150 lorries and 12 helicopters.

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Talks delay 'caused many deaths'

Salisbury, Dec 6.—Bishop Muzorewa, the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Prime Minister, today accused the Patriotic Front leaders at the London talks of using delaying tactics that had caused "very many unnecessary deaths".

But the Bishop, in a statement, welcomed yesterday's decision by the guerrilla alliance of Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo to accept British terms for a ceasefire in the seven-year war between Salisbury and the Patriotic Front.

The statement was the Bishop's first reaction to agreement, in principle, on a ceasefire which opened the way for a comprehensive peace package.

He said he had been assured by his delegation at the London talks that there was no modification to the ceasefire proposals.

"The acceptance by the Patriotic Front of the proposals came as no surprise because it was known from the beginning of the conference (over three months ago) that the Patriotic Front would have no choice but to accept any proposals that were laid on the table by the British Government and accepted by the Government of Zimbabwe Rhodesia."

"It is hoped that they (the guerrillas) will not be allowed to indulge in any further delaying tactics. These tactics which they have so successfully followed over the past three months have resulted in very many unnecessary deaths which must be laid at the door of the Patriotic Front."

The Bishop's accusations were clearly intended to fuel his campaign at fresh, British-supervised elections expected to emerge from the talks in London.

## Israeli official criticizes 'drop-out' Soviet Jews

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Dec 6

Mr Arye Dulzin, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, said today that Jews leaving the Soviet Union were not entitled to refugee status.

He deplored the fact that 67 per cent of the Jews leaving the Soviet Union for Israel dropped out en route and received refuge in Western countries, mainly the United States.

"Russian Jews are not refugees," he said at a press conference here. "A refugee is a man expelled from his country or fleeing his country and having no place to go. Russian Jews leaving the Soviet Union with visas for Israel."

Mr Dulzin was unwilling to advise the United States and other governments what conclusions it should draw about admitting Soviet Jews. He said the Jewish Agency was urging Jewish communities to reduce their assistance.

Mr Dulzin said Jewish communities welcoming the drop-outs were indirectly encouraging Soviet Jews not to go to Israel by offering them assistance. He said the Jewish Agency was campaigning among the communities that only close relatives should be helped to settle in the United States and other Western countries.

He said others should be left on their own unless they go to Israel. Nine large communities had already adopted this principle, he added.

Soviet Jews require affidavits from relatives in Israel in order to apply for exit permits. He estimated that 19,000 will have left Russia this year. This represented a considerable increase over previous years.

Mr Botha wins retraction from newspaper

Johannesburg, Dec 6.—A Johannesburg newspaper, The Star, has retracted a story that Mr Botha, the Prime Minister, with the alleged slaughter of rare animals by South African troops serving in Namibia.

It said, on the front page: "After a discussion between the Prime Minister and the editor of The Star, The Star accepts without reservation that Mr Botha was not present at any braai (barbecue) near Sodalite in South-West Africa—Namibia on April 2 or 3 in 1977."

The paper has published a series of stories alleging that troops, sometimes accompanied by high-ranking government officials, have been slaughtering animals by South African troops serving in Namibia.

As part of the series, The Star reported that Mr Botha had been the honoured guest at a barbecue during which at least two rare black-faced impalas, shot by soldiers, were served. Mr Botha angrily denied the story which the paper based on statements from five former soldiers who wrote letters to the article. It said it "apologizes to Mr Botha for having embarrassed him"—AP.

S Africa starts inquiry into need for tougher press law

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Dec 6

The South African Government has appointed a commission to inquire into press reporting of military activities. It has been given less than four months to say whether the existing law restricting how much can be disclosed is sufficiently effective.

The appointment of the commission was announced yesterday by Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, who is also Defence Minister. It will be headed by Mr Justice Marthinus Steyn, who was South Africa's Administrator-General in Namibia (South-West Africa) until he was abruptly replaced recently by Dr Gerrit Viljoen, head of the Afrikaner secret society, the Broederbond.

The decision to appoint an inquiry into military reporting was announced by Mr Botha after a three-day Cabinet meeting in Pretoria during which international reaction to the Minister's admission last Friday that South African troops were operating in Zimbabwe Rhodesia was undoubtedly discussed.

Greek Navy is reinforced by 32 naval units

From Our Own Correspondent, Athens, Dec 6

Thirty-two naval units, including two destroyers, two submarines, and four missile gunboats, were commissioned in the Greek fleet today on the day of the Greek Navy.

The ceremonies held on the island of Salamis, were attended by President Ioannis Evangelos Averoff.

Minister of Defence said the island of Salamis, which is 100 years old today, and the one at Suda Bay, in Crete, were maintaining 92 naval units in excellent working order.

He pointed out the four Communist missile gunboats built in Normandy, whose guns fire 2,000 rounds a minute, with computers ensuring accuracy. Six missile gunboats are being built in Greece under a French licence.

The destroyers were old but reconditioned so that, according to Mr Averoff, their fire power was bigger than when they were first commissioned. They were first purchased from the United States, the other was a gift from West Germany which had also built the two submarines.

Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, returned on Monday from talks in London and Bonn touting that reports about South Africa's involvement in Zimbabwe Rhodesia had been twisted by foreign press.

It appears that the government is particularly eager about the interpretations put on Mr Botha's remarks on Friday. The Prime Minister said that South Africa was protecting supply routes—he never actually said that South African troops were in Zimbabwe Rhodesia—but the general interpretation was that they are involved in a much wider role.

The appointment of the commission of inquiry, which is to recommend whether the Defence Act should be amended, is the second significant move to curtail the press by the Prime Minister since he came to power just over a year ago.

First was the Advocate General Bill. This followed exposure by the press of the scandal which brought down the Information Department empire of Dr Connie Mulder.

In conversations with the

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Will the Western alliance say yes to a new nuclear arsenal in Europe?

## Arms control: the new missile test facing Nato

Next week's meeting in Brussels of Nato foreign and defence ministers is likely to be an anticlimax. On current form, Nato leaders will ratify a controversial plan to deploy in Europe new American cruise and ballistic missiles with ranges capable of striking the Soviet Union.

There still could be a slip: a clever gesture from Moscow, for instance a freeze on its deployment of SS-20 missiles, might tempt Nato to delay; and there remain doubts about whether Holland, one of the planned sites for the new missiles, along with Britain, Germany, Belgium and Italy, will participate.

But Nato has made this issue a test of its ability to take action in the face of Soviet opposition.

Others, including Herr Schmidt, have backed firm decisions now on both production and deployment, but have hinted that the progress of negotiations might mean that not all of the 572 planned missiles need be deployed—and perhaps even that the final number might be zero.

In Brussels, the Nato leaders are likely to opt for both production and deployment. At the same time, they will seek a language to bring the Dutch in and minimise opposition to the plan among those Europeans who worry most about the course of defence.

In his Brussels speech, Mr Brezhnev offered to discuss reducing Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles targeted on Europe, but only if Nato did not go ahead with its plans. He made veiled threats to any European country that accepted the new missiles, and the Dutch and others in western Europe have argued that Nato should decide to produce the new missiles now but defer a firm commitment

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Soviet tanks from East Germany. Some first units of which started on Tuesday.

Yet almost before western opinion could digest the speech, it was followed by an avalanche of propaganda reminiscent of nothing so much as similar Soviet campaigns in the 1950s. East German by the millions have been signing petitions calling on Nato not to go forward.

The effect has been to underscore Mr Brezhnev's speech as an attempt to interfere in Nato planning, and to obscure its most promising aspects.

Marginal though the military significance of Mr Brezhnev's offer may be, it cannot have been easy for him to negotiate it through the Soviet Politburo.

Yet the ensuing propaganda barrage suggests that the Soviets may indeed regard the neutron bomb episode as a Soviet success which can be repeated.

In any event, Moscow has badly misread western politics. If Mr Brezhnev had made his October offer, or even less, in July, they would have complicated the debate in Nato. But now the leaders of America and western Europe have committed their prestige, and that of their alliance, to an affirmative decision.

There are compelling reasons for deciding now both on production and eventual deployment, of new missiles. If the Soviet Union is serious about negotiating a firm demonstration, western resolve can only make it more so.

Last week in Bonn, the Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Gromyko, threatened that a "yes" by Nato in December would mean no negotiations.

That, however, flies in the face of what the Russians have been saying privately since the Brezhnev speech, and must be read as an effort to turn the heat up on Nato. (So far, Moscow has offered no hint that it would be prepared to reduce its SS-20s, the most menacing of the new nuclear weapons targeted on western Europe.)

For Nato to defer its plan, or to separate production and deployment, deferring the latter, would look weak in the face of the Soviet build-up.

It would suggest that even prospective Nato systems are negotiable, while existing Soviet ones are not.

With affirmative decisions next week in Brussels, attention will shift to arms control issues, especially SALT III. Moscow will have opportunities aplenty to put strain on Nato, hoping to interfere with implementation of the Nato decision.

For example, next October the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) will meet in Madrid, and security issues are bound to be more prominent than they were two years ago in



Russian troops—the first part of a Soviet withdrawal from Eastern Europe—wave goodbye with flowers from Wittenberg Station on Wednesday.

Belgrade. Moscow can be expected to recruit European neutrals and non-aligned states in a campaign against "destabilizing" Nato plans to deploy new missiles.

Nato will need clear understandings about how arms control relates to the deployment of its initial arms control proposals, part of the Brussels package, will be negotiating openly but hardly guides to where Nato hopes to come out.

By the military logic of the planned deployment, all of the 572 missiles can be negotiable. The point is to permit Nato to carry out its own flexible response strategy, not to counter it. The SS-20. Even if SS-20s were frozen at their current number of between 120 and 150, Nato would still lack the longer-range missiles in Europe needed to sustain the credibility of Nato's deterrent.

But some portion of the planned deployment should be negotiable, depending on what the Soviet Union is prepared to offer.

Gregory F. Trevorton  
The author is assistant director, International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Geoffrey Smith

## Will Europe become a party battleground?

The political difficulties that Mrs Thatcher faces in the aftermath of Dublin come from the popularity of the cause she took there. Her Cabinet, her party in Parliament and the country, her political opponents and non-political opinion in general all agree with her objective of reducing Britain's contribution to the European Community budget.

Enthusiasm for Europe is not one of the more pronounced sentiments in Britain at the moment, and so long as Mrs Thatcher can appear as the national champion battling for the country's rights against its European partners she is likely to be sustained by a strong wind of popular support.

The case for playing this role with such gusto in Dublin and beforehand is that this was the only way of forcing the issue upon the attention of the Community. Only by being as awkward as she was could she demonstrate how seriously she takes this matter.

But by being so ambitious and relentless in her demands she runs the risk of arousing expectations which she may find it hard to fulfil. For the moment this presents little difficulty. The phase of open conflict has been succeeded by a period of negotiation through diplomatic channels. If this yields an agreement which gives her most of what she is seeking then the only question is the most appropriate way to celebrate her triumph. But one can hardly assume in the light of Dublin that it will be as easy as that.

It is if she has to choose between a compromise that does not get very near her present demands and resorting to obstructive tactics of one kind or another that political difficulties would emerge. When she made her statement on the Dublin summit to the House of Commons on Monday, Labour questioners were clearly divided as to whether to sympathise with her for having to deal with the Community or with the Community for having to deal with her. A

number of them compromised and did not.

But if the coming months do not produce an outcome that is obviously favourable to Britain it will be much easier for Labour anti-marketisers to commit the United Kingdom out of the Community.

To some extent that will depend upon what happens in the struggle for power within the party because most Labour friends of the Community are to be found on the right-wing. But it is also true that the result of the party battle may be affected by whether Europe again becomes a major political issue in Britain: one of the reasons why Labour right-wingers fared badly when the party was last in opposition

was that they incurred the odium of fighting for the unpopular cause within Labour circles, of EEC membership.

If now there is no early resolution of the dispute between Britain and the Community that will be a boon to Labour. The agreement with what a Conservative Prime Minister had previously said was essential for Britain.

If Labour were to become an outright anti-European party that would inevitably be disturbing to Mrs Thatcher and most Conservatives because they have been insisting that



Mrs Thatcher: although most Euro-MP's agree with her objectives, there is concern about her tough tactics

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the present row must not lead to British withdrawal from the Community. With Labour committed to such a course there would obviously be a strong possibility that Britain would come out at some time or other.

But Mrs Thatcher's principal preoccupation, as with any political leader, must be with the expectations aroused among her own followers and the public at large. Before the Dublin summit, voices were raised among the Cabinet warning against the danger of jeopardising the prize of a united western Europe for the sake of a saving that would be of only transitory importance. In some ministerial minds there might even be a preference, if it came to the point, for economising on the defence budget—in other words, not making the proposed increases—rather than getting into a bitter battle with the Community.

Mrs Thatcher unquestionably has full Cabinet support but there are some members who would be unhappy if the threats of possible obstruction had to be put into practice. Others would draw the line simply at any infringement of Community law. One hears it said at various levels that at a time when there are formidable economic and international problems ahead it would be unwise to become too involved in an internal Community squabble.

Such attitudes are to be found more in the Government than on the back benches, and more on the back benches than in the party in the country. Conservative Euro-MPs in general agree with Mrs Thatcher's objective while being somewhat sceptical about the tactics employed. They would not wish to see the battle taken too far. But as yet they do not have any great influence either within the party or with the general public.

The Conservative Party at large and public opinion in general would appear ready to back Mrs Thatcher wholeheartedly in her campaign. That is both a negotiating advantage and a possible political handicap. It would enable her to characterise with the Community partners with tough action all the more convincingly because she would be sure of popular support.

But the expectations aroused may be higher than she can meet without resorting to measures that would cause anxiety to some of her colleagues. It might make a highly skilled exercise in public presentation to make the ultimate compromise seem consistent with her original demands. When does half a loaf become indistinguishable from a whole one?

Mrs Thatcher's tactics have succeeded in placing Britain's budget contribution right at the top of the Community agenda. But, in domestic political terms, it is the easy part of her European campaign that is now over.

Patricia Clough

## BERLIN DIARY

### On the edge of the technological revolution

West Germany's Social Democrats have seen the future and begged for it. Little did they realise when they booked West Berlin's colossal new congress centre for their party conference this week that for five days they would have to talk, work and eat in the architectural embodiment of one of the main issues under debate—the need to stop technology taking over.

Gigantomania, said Herr Willy Brandt, the party chairman, in his opening speech is out. "Many people are haunted by the terrifying picture of an anonymous computer-run automated society."

As he spoke listeners were trying to recover from the initial psychoshaock received on entering the building. By the time they had somehow found their places they had passed through a surrealist nightmare of countless escalators, spotlights, ventilators, neon lights, signs, placards, wires, tubes, videoscapes and so many wells, tiers, split levels, vast spaces and corridors that the place seems to have nine dimensions.

The ICC is the building is called, is a cathedral of modern German technology. It is the ultimate in every form of technical engineering, economic and

logistical planning and efficiency. It is a climax of everything that present day Germans are busied with, but it is terrifying. It is not for human beings.

The ICC is a gigantic armoured monster crouched in the middle of a sea of autobahns and busy interchanges in a West Berlin suburb. In shape it is something like a metallic London tube train which, like Alice in Wonderland has unexpectedly grown and got stuck in a locomotive shed.

Inside it is like some vast space station. The feeling of having entered the year 2000 is heightened by a sculpture of fluorescent tubes, which from one level looks all the world like an atomic reactor.

All over the building are red or blue neon lights shaped like spectacles. Their purpose, although not always obvious to bewildered participants, is to mark routes through the building but the immediate impression is that some short-sighted Big Brother is watching you.

The size of the place alone is almost impossible to comprehend. The 800,000 cubic metre aluminium colossus—supported by 57,000 kilometres of steel rods and 3,000 railway wagons full of reinforced concrete—contains 80 conference halls and meeting rooms.

The vast main hall seats 5,000, and is so skillfully tiered and arranged—it was done by computers—that even people only five feet high have an uninterrupted view of the stage from any seat in the room. All

that is needed, from the press seats at the back are binoculars to identify the dots which are the social democratic leaders.

Each seat has been specially designed to allow the human posterior to withstand long sessions. It has a comfortable desk with a light, ashtray and eight language simultaneous translators. The electronically aided acoustics are superb and can be adjusted to suit speaking or music.

Air-conditioned nightmare? But while the delegates are urging greater efforts to save energy, 50,000 lights, 60 air-conditioning units and countless other devices are consuming millions of watts of electricity all produced from primary materials which have to be brought in to Berlin by train or barge.

The nerve centre of the place is a kind of glass train compartment on the ground floor where engineers watch banks of television screens and flashing lights and teleprinters chatter out strange formulae. A complex computer system is keeping them informed of any breakdown throughout the building whether cables, pumps, lights or escalators, so they can direct squads of workmen to the spot. It gives them half-hourly reports on air temperature in the various rooms while the

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Each seat has been specially designed to allow the human posterior to withstand long sessions. It has a comfortable desk with a light, ashtray and eight language simultaneous translators. The electronically aided acoustics are superb and can be adjusted to suit speaking or music.

Air-conditioned nightmare? But while the delegates are urging greater efforts to save energy, 50,000 lights, 60 air-conditioning units and countless other devices are consuming millions of watts of electricity all produced from primary materials which have to be brought in to Berlin by train or barge.

The nerve centre of the place is a kind of glass train compartment on the ground floor where engineers watch banks of television screens and flashing lights and teleprinters chatter out strange formulae. A complex computer system is keeping them informed of any breakdown throughout the building whether cables, pumps, lights or escalators, so they can direct squads of workmen to the spot. It gives them half-hourly reports on air temperature in the various rooms while the

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All over the building are red or blue neon lights shaped like spectacles. Their purpose, although not always obvious to bewildered participants, is to mark routes through the building but the immediate impression is that some short-sighted Big Brother is watching you.

The size of the place alone is almost impossible to comprehend. The 800,000 cubic metre aluminium colossus—supported by 57,000 kilometres of steel rods and 3,000 railway wagons full of reinforced concrete—contains 80 conference halls and meeting rooms.

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## Persuading the EEC to keep helping it's poor

One little reported event at the Dublin summit meeting was an attempt to put pressure on the EEC heads of state to ensure that the European anti-poverty programme continues beyond 1980. In London last weekend, representatives of the British projects mounted under the programme, with representatives from Ireland, Germany and Belgium, decided to write the British and European lobbies for the programme.

The alarm felt by those involved in what was intended to be an attempt to define poverty throughout the Community and find new ways of alleviating it, is justified.

The German Government is hostile to continuation of the programme, which will have cost the Community £10 million last year when it ends in November 1980.

Even more important, the British attitude is unknown and will depend on Mrs Thatcher's attempt to reduce Britain's Community budget payments. Britain was the most enthusiastic supporter of the anti-poverty programme in 1977 when the Council of Ministers decided to extend it to 1980. If her support is now withdrawn, the future for the programme is bleak.

The scheme set up four family groups each in two contrasting London areas: the deprived inner borough of Hackney, and the more affluent and mixed outer borough of Croydon. Two of the groups, one founded, one because it did not attract enough support, the other because the leader rapidly became overworked. But the six that continued demonstrated that the isolated young mothers who use few community facilities can be helped to participate in the life of their neighbourhoods and offer each other support.

By the end of the first year, the proportion of mothers in the project with no close friends was nearly halved. So was the proportion who previously never left their homes except for essentials such as shopping. The women began to offer each other help, for example, with baby-sitting; some began to take action to resolve their own difficulties, such as living in unsuitable housing; others found particular jobs.

Those activities would not have taken place but for the existence of the family groups; whose leaders were drawn from local housewives and mothers who spoke the same language and shared the same values as themselves. The groups were based on practical activities like dressmaking and playgroups were run beside the adult activities.

A seminar organised by the Commission in Brussels last month, participants stressed the need to publicise and publicise the entire programme, and suggested that the Commission should include the organisation of a "poor lobby" as well as a study to find ways of destroying the "vicious circle" of poverty.

There is no doubt that a European poverty programme has purpose. One of the two cross-national studies financed entirely by the Commission concluded that while only 8 per cent of the Community's citizens classify themselves as poor, more than a quarter felt their incomes are less than "absolutely necessary for people in their situation". With that proportion feeling themselves hard pressed, it is not surprising that 54 per cent feel public authorities are not doing enough to help the poor.

The definition of poverty used by the programme is that coined by Professor Peter Townsend, of Essex University, for an earlier study of poverty in Britain. Individuals or families are in poverty "when they have a command of resources so deficient that they are excluded from ordinary living patterns, customs and activities of the member state in which they live".

The pilot projects were expected to meet four broad criteria: they would test new methods; have the potential to be extended into wider programmes; include systematic programming, reporting and analysis of the project's im-

plementation; and involve poor people themselves. Thus in Britain the project was an antithesis to a traditional representation of the poor in the media: a group of people in a room, with welfare rights projects in Northern Ireland.

One of the most successful British projects is the family groups scheme set up by the London Voluntary Service Council (formerly the London Council of Social Service) to help mothers under stress to overcome the isolation of their poverty. The groups have worked so well that the LVSC has set up a family group unit, which it hopes will become an independent agency within three years.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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**Stock markets**

FT 100 413.3, down 5.9

FT 100 413.3, down 5.9

FT 100 413.3, down 5.9

**Sterling**

\$19.05 up 1.20

Index 59.5 up 0.1

**Dollar**

Index 85.3 down 0.4

**Gold**

\$433 an ounce up 66

**3-month money**

Inter-bank 16 1/2 to 16 3/4

Euro 3 1/4 to 3 1/2

### IN BRIEF

## Method for allocating oil blocks may be changed

The Department of Energy is to hold talks with oil companies over possible changes in the method of allocating offshore blocks, including a possible auction method.

A department spokesman said changes in the current allocation system, where licences were charged for new blocks, could be agreed before the end of the year. The department's seventh round of allocations was published in November 1979.

No official decisions have been taken but the talks will concern methods of obtaining cash payments.

New blocks have so far been allocated at government discretion at a cost of £100 a square kilometre covering the initial four years and £150 for a further three years, apart from a small experimental auction in 1971-72.

### Gold buyers

Johnson Matthey and Samuel Montagu, of London, were among the 15 successful bidders at the IMF's monthly gold sale. The IMF sold 444,000 ounces at a record average price of \$426.37 an ounce.

### Record car sales

Estimates by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that new car registrations for December will be around 65,000, pushing the total for 1979 to 1,715,000, the highest since 1973. The Department of Industry said that car production in Britain last month was 64,000 units, the highest monthly total since June.

### Meccano work-in

Workers occupying the Meccano factory in Liverpool after the company's closure decision last week intend to resume full production today. Shop steward Mr Dave Lynch said: "We estimate there are about three months supply of raw materials. We want to show that our people are not only willing to work but can achieve good productivity."

### ITT jobs to go

International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) announced that it is reorganizing its manufacturing activities in Britain with a loss of 400 jobs.

### Joseph Parks stake

In the first joint investment of the National Coal Board, Pension Funds and Midland Industrial Investments, the two groups have each taken a 47.5 per cent stake in Joseph Parks and Son, a subsidiary of Chamberlain Group, which was taken over by an American company earlier this year.

### Gold price soars

The price of gold leapt by \$6 an ounce yesterday to close at \$433. Although gold traded at higher levels at the end of October, the dollar dropped back slightly against most currencies.

### GEC shares down

Shares in General Electric Company fell 19p to 318p yesterday after the group's half year figures showed a fall in profits from £162.9m to £155.2m. Profits from GEC's power engineering, industrial and component divisions were badly damaged by strikes.

### Belgian workers out

The Belgian Socialist Trade Union Federation has called for a 24-hour strike on Friday in protest at the refusal of demands for a shorter working week to reduce unemployment. The strike is expected to paralyse the public transport system and affect major industries.

### Fewer house starts

Builders started work on 20,900 homes in Britain during October, 2,200 fewer than in the same month last year. Completions totalled 23,100, against 24,300. The biggest fall was in the public sector, where homes started in the three months to October 31 were 25 per cent lower than a year ago.

### THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buy	sell
Australia \$	2.07	2.07
Canada \$	2.07	2.07
Denmark Kr	65.59	62.00
France Fr	2.07	2.07
Germany DM	3.76	3.76
Greece Dr	16.00	16.00
Italy L	175.00	175.00
Japan Yen	357.00	357.00
Netherlands Gld	4.41	4.41

## US drums up EEC support for Iran 'money war'

By Peter Norman and Caroline Atkinson

Teams of United States Treasury officials yesterday visited European capitals to solicit and win support from EEC members for America's money war with Iran.

A high-level mission to Bonn led by Mr Richard Cooper, under-secretary of state for economic affairs, and Mr. Anthony Solomon, under-secretary of the treasury responsible for international monetary affairs, apparently tried to discover what sort of backing the Germans might give to America. The team sought to defuse anger felt in Germany after last week's move by the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, attaching Iran's government holdings in Krupp and Deutsche Babcock AG.

They met Herr Manfred Lehmann, the state-secretary, the Finance Minister, Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, and Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the economics minister, before they flew to West Berlin to explain the American position to Herr Hans Matthies, the finance minister, who is attending the Social Democratic party conference in the city.

They were concerned that a wedge might be driven between Europe and America if Iran continued to trade normally with the EEC. Such trading, they argued, was enabling Iran to withstand economic sanctions imposed by the United States and set a dangerous example to other oil-producing states such as Libya.

According to the Americans, the attachments made against the Iranian assets in Krupp and Babcock, which led to an outcry in West Germany, were necessary as the assets, unlike many Iranian deposits in the United States banks, were clearly the property of the state.

It was not immediately clear how the Germans responded. However, the West German government has shown some solidarity by advising its oil industry not to buy any surplus Iranian oil coming on the market as a result of President Carter's decision to halt imports. Other European countries are believed to be taking this line.

The Germans are worried that American banks might be acting too hastily against Iran, and so be likely to disqualify themselves from the "recycling" of Opec petrodollars.

This attitude reflects a growing West German anxiety about the use of the mark as a reserve currency. It is feared that the American measures, blocking Iranian funds in United States bank accounts are likely to lead to other oil producers diversifying out of dollars and into hard currencies such as the mark and the Swiss franc.

Foreign central banks already hold about 50,000 marks in reserves (11 per cent of total reserve holdings outside West Germany). This increased use of the mark as a reserve asset is seen as a threat to West Germany's ability to conduct its own economic and monetary policies.

In Britain the United States officials had talks with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, and the Governor of the Bank of England. There were two separate sessions, one with the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor, and the other with the Governor and the Chancellor. The American team flew out of London after the talks, probably on their way to Paris and then home.

Officials refused to comment on the talks other than to confirm that they were about Iran. The London team was headed by Mr Robert Carswell, deputy

secretary of the United States Treasury. Mr Robert Mundheim, general counsel of the treasury, and Mr George Vest, assistant secretary of state for European affairs.

The presence of Mr Mundheim, the American Treasury's chief legal adviser, suggests that the many law suits now under way in London were high on the agenda. It is extremely unlikely that the British Government would be willing to take a stand on the legality of President Carter's freeze of Iranian assets in some London branches of United States banks. Britain does not want to be drawn further into the money war and has insisted it is a matter for the courts.

Mr Solomon and Mr Cooper are expected to visit Switzerland tomorrow.

The Iranian issue and the impact of the money war on financial markets is also likely to be discussed informally by Western central bankers at their regular monthly meeting in Basel next week.

The Bank of England is trying to find out whether it is itself affected by the latest legal development—the injunction obtained by Chemical Bank which freezes all Iran's official assets in London.

Dollar damage, page 19

## America renews efforts to cut dependence on oil imports

From Frank Vogt, Washington, Dec 6

The Carter Administration today announced plans to cut domestic petroleum consumption. At an international conference in Paris next week, United States officials will pledge to "secure lower overall American oil imports in 1980."

The political situation in Iran has increased the urgency of efforts here to make the United States less dependent on foreign oil. Mr Charles Duncan, Secretary for Energy, gave a warning today that the global supply-demand situation for oil is very tense and the time for action is now.

He announced plans to limit United States petrol consumption for most of 1980 to seven million barrels a day and to limit consumption in the first quarter of next year (the first quarter usually sees lower consumption) to 6.8 million barrels per day.

Severe petrol shortages here this year have cut consumption to around 7 million barrels, but the level had been expected to rise. The new targets announced today represent more than a 5 per cent reduction on 1978 petrol consumption.

Further energy conservation measures are likely from the White House. Mr Duncan said the new petrol consumption

limits were voluntary, but could become mandatory. He gave a warning several times at a press conference that it was vital for the United States to prepare right now for the prospect of oil supply interruptions.

It is the fear of a total breakdown in Iranian oil output, so depriving global production of at least 8 million barrels a day, that is influencing new energy policy decisions. The Administration is about to announce plans for new emergency petrol rationing that could be activated if the Persian Gulf is cut off by a 20 per cent swing in oil supplies falling by 20 per cent within any set given period.

Mr Duncan estimated the present average oil output by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries at roughly 31.5 million barrels and he said he expected 1980 production to be lower. He will be leading the United States delegation to next week's international Energy Agency conference in Paris.

Well-placed sources said they were now becoming deeply concerned about the Paris meeting. They said that some industrial nations appeared to be reluctant to agree to substantial energy conservation targets. Britain and Germany, in particular, seemed to be proving difficult.

The United States is currently bound by international agreements to limit 1980 imports to 8.5 million barrels a day, but given the recession here there is every chance that actual imports will be far below this level. The United States could, in fact, pledge to secure a 7.5 million barrel a day limit, but it will not make sense to set such strong pledges to reduce imports by other countries.

There is a danger that the Paris meeting will end in bitter and heated arguments between the main oil importing nations. Some Americans appear to be concerned about the swiftness with which the Japanese rushed to take over Iranian oil consignments originally due to go to the United States and the willingness of the Japanese to pay cash for oil.

The Administration hopes that by announcing tough domestic conservation measures, such as the petrol consumption target, it can promote agreement on a 20 and 40 per cent energy conservation and oil stocks and oil demand policies.

Fears of substantial Opec output cuts next year are probably leading to heavy oil inventory building in industrial countries.

## Rolls-Royce -Japan engine deal

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

Rolls-Royce is to join forces with three Japanese companies to build a 10-tonne thrust aircraft in competition with two American manufacturers, Pratt and Whitney and General Electric.

Rolls will sign the deal, worth \$570m (£257m), with Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, and Kawasaki Heavy Industries, in both Tokyo and London next week. It will take effect from January 31 and is for 30 years.

The 10-tonne engine will be used by airlines during the next decade, with 120-150 seats.

The development cost will be shared equally; the Japanese companies will develop the fan and low-pressure turbine, with Rolls producing the compressor, burner, and high-pressure turbine.

If further engines are developed from the engine, the Japanese companies will subcontract between 20 and 40 per cent of the work. The four companies expect to build about 1,500 engines in the next 25 years, or about 40 per cent of the expected world demand for engines of this class.

## NEB seeks urgent clarification of new state guidelines

By Patricia Tisdall

The newly constituted National Enterprise Board is seeking an urgent meeting with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, to discuss the degree of Government control of the NEB contained in guidelines due to be published next week.

Sir Arthur Knight, the new NEB chairman, like his predecessor, is understood to be unhappy about the detailed control of the NEB's affairs envisaged by the Secretary of State.

Sir Arthur, who took over the chairmanship three weeks ago after the resignation of the old board, is expected to object to a clause which empowers the Government to nominate a chief executive—a post left vacant by the resignation of Mr Richard Morris with the other directors.

Protests are also expected if Sir Keith insists on monitoring individual investments or on controlling the NEB's initiative in developing new businesses in

too much detail.

But there is unlikely to be any friction between the new NEB and the Government over responsibility for British Leyland. The Department of Industry confirmed last night that Sir Arthur had already passed on BL's corporate restructuring plan to Sir Keith earlier this week.

Sir Arthur is happy for it to be hammered out between Sir Michael Edwards, BL's chairman, and Sir Keith. It is understood that although individual NEB staff members are liaising informally with the Department of Industry, Sir Arthur and his board have made no comment to the Secretary of State about the plan or its implications.

But the new NEB board is clearly seeking to establish independence at an early stage. Sir Arthur, who considers he has been appointed for his commercial sense, is unlikely to agree to be forced sale of the board's assets.

The Government envisaged

in the last Budget that the NEB would raise about £100m by selling off certain subsidiaries. After a battle the selection and the timing of the sale was left to the discretion of the old board but the hope was that these would be completed in this financial year.

Sir Arthur has taken over in the middle of delicate negotiations for the disposals and is unlikely to take kindly to political exhortations for haste because he would then not obtain the best price.

Similar objections were voiced by Sir Leslie Murphy, Sir Arthur's predecessor, who objected vigorously to the powers of the Industry Bill which enabled the Secretary of State to order disposals.

The new NEB board is not due to have its first full meeting until later this month. Until this has taken place and Sir Arthur has heard reports from his staff he is unlikely to want to decide on conditions of sale.

## BSC launches £1,000m reorganization plan

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

The formation of a new £1,000 million a year steel business was announced by the British Steel Corporation yesterday in the first phase of a new production of the ailing state group.

The new BSC Yorkshire and Humberside unit brings together the Scunthorpe division and the steelworks section of the Sheffield division which, with the rod, bar and billet product units, is being formed into a new profit centre. The centre will be responsible for making and selling the corporation's billet products.

The corporation is having joint talks with GKN, its largest single customer, on the need for rationalization in where interests overlap. These talks could lead to a joint company which may be opened to public subscription. The new unit will include a commercial department to handle sales of billet, bar and rod, including those produced elsewhere.

In a further reorganization, which will give greater decentralized operations, other activities in the Sheffield area including forging, foundries and engineering, with stainless steel production, are to be grouped under BSC Holdings, which will operate independently of BSC's manufacturing divisions.

The fusion of the Sheffield and Scunthorpe operations has more than an echo of pre-nationalization days when the activities of the companies were controlled by the former United Steel company. It also forms part of the strategy mapped out by BSC against the back-

ground of the collapse in demand for steel.

The 30,000 jobs cutback for which the corporation is pressing is bound to affect the new unit. The new organization employs 34,600 workers.

The BSC's River Don works, which will now form part of BSC Holdings, will record a loss this year of about £7.7m, but it is hoped that having secured agreement for 400 redundancies among its 2,500 labour force, new orders and further cost cutting will help the works break even although, a loss of about £2m has been forecast for the next financial year.

Peter Norman writes from Brussels: The European Commission yesterday proposed that production of crude steel in the EEC should be limited to 34.5 million tonnes in the first three months of next year—down from the 35.6 million tonnes target agreed with the industry for the current quarter.

For British industry, the Commission is proposing a production level of 5.28 million tonnes, compared with the present quarterly target of 5.57 million tonnes.

The commission gave a warning that accelerated steel production, and tight monetary policies were bound to have an impact on steel demand next year.

It forecast that real consumption in the community was likely to fall by 700,000 tonnes to 29.5 million tonnes in the first quarter of 1980. Exports should decline to 7.5 million tonnes from 7.9 million in the final quarter of this year.

Hard talking, page 19

## Titanium scheme for Shotton

By Our Industrial Staff

Shotton, in North Wales, has been chosen by the National Enterprise Board as the site for a £25m titanium plant. The site is near the British Steel works where production of iron and steel is being phased out over the next few months, with the loss of 6,500 jobs.

Subject to planning consent, the plant will be built by the NEB in partnership with IMI and Rolls-Royce, and will provide 280 jobs.

Shotton was one of a number of old steel-making sites studied by the NEB, including Corby and Hartlepool. The NEB had earlier considered plans to build on a greenfield site owned by British Steel at Hartlepool.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry, had asked the NEB to replace the Government's stake with private capital. Approval for the NEB to take part has been given, on the understanding that financial responsibility is transferred to the private sector as soon as possible.

The NEB said last night it had received approaches from a number of private investors, and negotiations were continuing.

Titanium, a metal used in the aerospace and other engineering industries, is in short supply both in Britain and overseas. Rolls-Royce wants to secure a supply of titanium. Its present source, from an ICI plant in Teesside, will fail when the plant closes in two years time.

## CBI team set for Rhodesia mission

A 10-man team of British industrialists is ready to fly to Zimbabwe-Rhodesia on a "reconnaissance mission" to re-establish trade links.

The team, representing all sections of industry, was brought together by the Confederation of British Industry, which says that members are now impatiently waiting for a resumption of trading.

Mr Philip Dunkley, chairman of the CBI's Rhodesia committee, said the mission would be the groundwork for a top-level delegation to visit Rhodesia officials after the election.

More than 150 British companies had a stake in Rhodesia before the declaration of independence, when assets valued at £160m were locked in the country. Most international companies have kept a presence of some sort, despite restrictions on access, funding, and dividend remission.

In most cases, operating results from Rhodesian subsidiaries have been excluded from company accounts. Some, like Imperial Group, say operations have been shut down. In other cases Rhodesian activities have expanded.

The Rhodesian offshoot of Turner & Newall, best known for its asbestos activities, spent an estimated £12m on expansion in the 1970s. The company believes the return of these

assets could make a substantial contribution to profits.

The Dunlop-based activities of Dunlop Rhodesia have also undergone rapid expansion, with the workforce doubling in 20 years to 1,200, and with diversification into floor coverings and light engineering.

National Foods Holdings, in which Spillers has a 25 per cent interest, doubled profits last year. Apart from its holding in the company, Spillers—recently taken over by Delgaty—has broad, biscuit, chocolate manufacturing and property interests in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. The total worth is put at more than £11m.

Lombax has retained substantial mineral, textile and other interests in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, although it says it has no detailed information.

The CBI said a "British company has loyalty and scrupulously observed the law, although they know that other countries have trade missions in Rhodesia." For this reason, there is no great optimism that import and export levels of 15 years ago can be regained quickly.

The Department of Trade, which is advising an increasing number of companies inquiring about trade prospects to wait until all legal obstacles are cleared, expects about £100m of trade in the first full year. Eventually it believes Zimbabwe-Rhodesia could resume its position as a third largest market in Africa after Nigeria and South Africa.

Like the CBI, it sees the best export possibilities in engineering equipment, as the country needs a huge programme of infrastructure building and renovation.

Transport, mining and agriculture all need re-equipping. Companies such as GEC and Northern Engineering Industries have already expressed an interest in seeking business in these areas. So, too, has Mitchell Cotts, an engineering group, of which Mr Dunkley is executive chairman.

As just as Rhodesia was able to carry on without British goods, so United Kingdom companies have found substitute sources of raw materials. The Imperial Group, for example, has secured the prospect of a resumption of trade with Rhodesia. But it said it would only start buying tobacco again if it was found to offer price and quality advantages.

This was a general throughout industry. None wants to be seen to be jumping the gun, when complex political problems remain, although each wishes to establish or reactivate links with Rhodesia.

News of the Rhodesian ceasefire resulted in a sharp increase in the value of Rhodesian bonds and shares with interests in Rhodesia.



Mr Philip Dunkley: laying the groundwork

Rhodesian Bonds quoted on the London market showed gains of between £3 to £8, with Southern Rhodesia 6 per cent 1978-81 £8 higher at £150 and Southern Rhodesia 41 per cent 1987-92 £4 firmer at £102.

Among companies to improve on the news were Lombax, 3p higher at 73p, while steel traders Stocklake improved 6p to 106p. Only Turner & Newall in Rhodesia failed to gain ground, slipping 1p to 122p.

## Mining group asks for shares suspension to be lifted

## St Piran sends out explanation to its shareholders

St Piran, the mining and property group whose accounts were heavily qualified two weeks ago, has sent a circular to shareholders replying to the auditors' reservations. The company has also requested that its shares, suspended on November 5, be requested next Monday.

The circular and the request for a quotation proceed the annual meeting on December 14. But stock exchange sources were dubious last night about the company's chances of an early resumption of the quotation, suspended at GPP.

It is pointed out that the Takeover Panel's inquiries into

whether Mr J. J. Raper, once chairman of St Piran, triggered off an offer under Rule 34 of the Takeover Code, because he holds 30 per cent or more of the company, have not been concluded.

The Stock Exchange quotations committee is awaiting answers to its own inquiries.

These are two of the main points which the company deals with in its circular. The board believes that Mr Raper holds only 1,000 St Piran shares. Mr Raper is also chairman of Reckitts, a company which controls Gasco Investments, which in its turn holds 29.57 per cent of St Piran.

The board says it is "satisfied that it has maintained the necessary degree of control over deployment of the total funds of the group and is satisfied as to the security of those funds."

Mr W. D. Allen, a director of St Piran, said that some of the problem had arisen because a company had been without a finance director for more than a year. He said that a finance director was being sought.

Mr Allen added that satisfactory answers to all the auditors' qualifications would be provided.

Michael Prest

## THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED

**INTERIM REPORT**

1. The total of orders received by the U.K. product groups in the six months was slightly higher than in the same period of last year, but the export content declined from £485 million to £405 million.

The value of the order book at 30th September 1979 was 15 per cent higher than the year before.

The results for the half year were adversely affected by strikes and other manifestations of labour disputes, which were particularly disruptive in the Power Engineering, Industrial, and Components groups. If production is smoothly and steadily maintained some recovery of the ground lost will be achieved before the end of the financial year. Although in general the economic climate is not for the moment favourable, continuing expansion may be expected in certain areas of the business.

2. The unaudited results for the six months ended 30th September 1979 are as given below:-

	6 months to 30th September 1979	6 months to 30th September 1978
Sales (to Customers outside Group)	£ million 1,713	£ million 1,180
Profit	166.2	171.6
Interest on Capital Notes	11.0	8.7
Profit before Taxation	185.2	162.9
Taxation—assumed full charge	71.9	81.5
Minority Interests	76.3	78.4
	2.5	1.3
	73.4	77.5
Profit before Taxation per Ordinary share (after adjusting for Minority Interests)	27.25p	23.01p

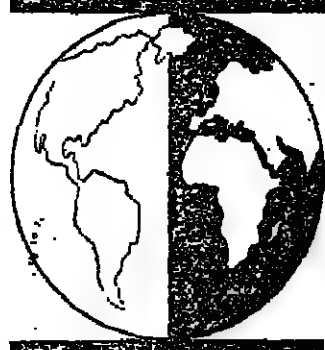
3. The directors have declared an interim dividend on the Ordinary shares of 3p per share payable on 31st March 1980 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 21st February 1980. In respect of the year ended 31st March 1979 an interim dividend of 2.55p was followed by a final dividend of 4p, making 6.55p per share. The cost of the interim dividend is £16.5 million (1978, £12.3 million).

4. Bank balances and short term deposits, less bank overdrafts, amounted to £630 million at 30th September 1979 (1978, £524 million).

5. Details of turnover (including inter-group sales) and profit contributions are as follows:-

	Turnover 1978	1979	Profit before Taxation 1978	1979
United Kingdom	£m 153	£m 189	£m 8.2	£m 23.6
Power Engineering	162	162	20.1	26.2
Industrial	489	385	48.2	41.9
Electronics, Automation and Telecommunications	164	160	11.8	17.0
Components and Cables and Wire	140	127	10.8	9.1
Consumer Products	52	43	1.0	3.5
Associated Companies				
Overseas	317	244	26.6	24.7
Subsidiaries	106	62	10.8	6.5
Associated Companies	9	8	0.6	0.3
Other Activities and Items				
Interest Receivable, less Payable			18.1	18.1
Interest on Capital Notes			(11.0)	(8.7)
	1,580	1,200	156.2	162.9
Overseas Subsidiaries				
Terminal Analysis				
Europe	65	89	8.2	11.2
The Americas	152	49	10.8	5.7
Australia	45	53	2.5	2.9
Asia	47	42	4.0	3.2
Africa	7	11	1.1	1.1
	317	244	26.6	24.7
Exports from U.K.	342	353		





## Opec oil cuts move disclosed by Iran

Mr Ali Akbar Moinefar, Iran's oil minister, is to travel to Kuwait, Algeria and Libya in the next week to plan reductions in the oil output of Opec countries.

He said that Iran is to cut its production from the present 3.5 million barrels a day to three million barrels a day next year.

Mr Moinefar also said that Venezuela told a preparatory meeting of Opec ministers in Saudi Arabia on Monday that it is cutting back production by about 6 per cent.

Kuwait, Algeria and Libya had all expressed their intention to cut output and had invited him for talks to coordinate the moves before Opec's official meeting in Caracas later this month.

**German deficit falls**  
West Germany's provisional current account balance of payments deficit in October narrowed to DM977m from DM2,480m in September compared with a DM3,520m surplus in October 1978, according to the Federal Bank.

**Pay deal rejected**  
Herr Eugen Loderer, chairman of the West German Metalworkers Union, said it could not accept proposed pay rises of only 8 per cent in 1980 while inflation is currently running close to that level. The metalworkers are regarded as pay pace-setters in Germany.

**Volvo cutback**  
Volvo plans to cut car production in Sweden next year to 305,000 from this year's record 328,000 in line with declining world demand. But output in Holland of Volvo's 66 and 343 series should be higher.

**Record unemployment**  
Unemployment in Belgium rose to a record 308,900 or 7.6 per cent of the working population at the end of November. It was 7.2 per cent a month earlier and 7.4 per cent in November last year.

**Japan steel boom**  
Japan's crude steel production this year is likely to top 110m tonnes for the first time in five years. Output has fallen since a record 119 million tonnes were produced in 1973.

**Food prices soar**  
Wholesale prices in the United States rose by 1.3 per cent in November after a 1 per cent gain in the previous month. The jump was due largely to a 2.6 per cent surge in consumer food prices.

American aviation traditionalism prevails despite 'preferential terms'

## Airbus still denied US aircraft market

The decision by Trans World airline to buy a fleet of 20 Boeing 767 advanced technology airliners worth £270m, rather than the European A310, points yet again to the difficulties which the burgeoning European aircraft industry faces in breaking into the American market.

But Airbus Industrie, the European consortium producing both the A300 and smaller A310 airbuses, is making great sales progress having sold 394 with options of a further 215 this year. Of the consortium's 32 airline customers, however, only one, Eastern Airlines, in North America is included.

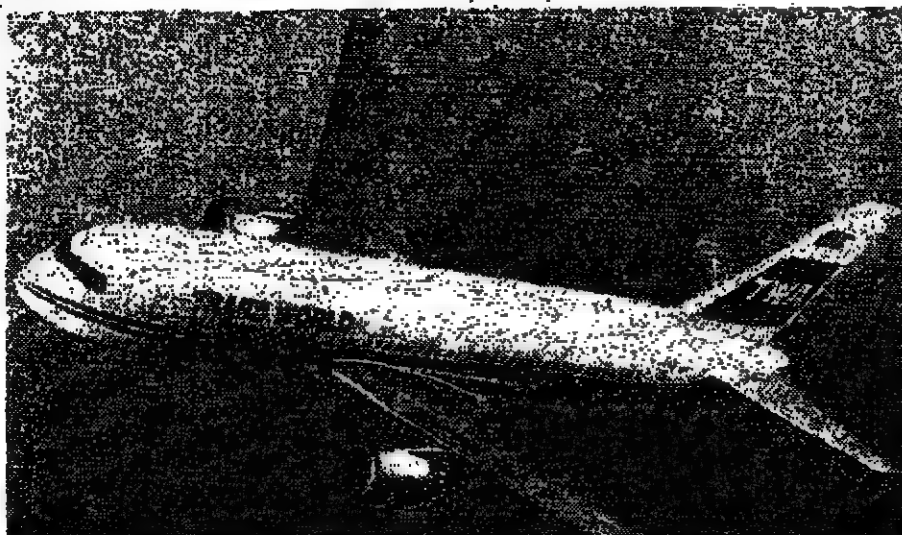
And although the details have never been published, the Eastern deal is believed within the industry to have been on extremely preferential terms which the United States manufacturers could not possibly match.

On that occasion, M Bernard Lathiere, Airbus' director general of Airbus Industrie, referring to the defeat of the American aerospace competition said: "Red Riding Hood has bitten the wolf". In the TWA case, Red Riding Hood's teeth obviously snapped very close to the wolf's tail, but after a lengthy evaluation of both types, which found there was virtually nothing to choose between them technically, and an agonised board meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, the Americans opted for the "wolf".

What inclined TWA in the direction of its own industry rather than that of Europe was a large dose of American aviation traditionalism. Like almost every other big American airline, TWA has largely operated the products of the west coast aerospace factories.

Seattle, the Boeing manufacturing centre, is "just up the road", and the right act can be read to executives who have known each other for a business lifetime.

Toulouse, the manufacturing centre for the Airbus, might be a million miles away in south-west France. TWA was also up



The Boeing 767 which will join the Trans World fleet in preference to the European Airbus.

against the "buy American" ethos, still very strong within America.

Such considerations have not worried the 32 other airlines which have signed for the A300 and/or the A310. Airbus Industrie has almost cleaned up the orders in Europe for aircraft in the A310 class (300 seats, medium range).

But the big American carriers with Boeings are still way ahead in numbers. (Boeing has 135 firm sales and 128 options firm for aircraft in the A310 class (300 seats, medium range).)

An Airbus Industrie official told me yesterday after the smoke of the TWA decision had cleared. "Naturally, we are disappointed, but we certainly have plenty on our plate."

TWA decided in favour of the A310 it would have wanted a total of 45, and AE would have been hard pressed

to have fitted them into its already strained production facilities.

Parts come into the assembly plant at Toulouse from all over Europe and are turned into finished aircraft at a rate of three a month at present. This rate is being stepped up to eight a month by 1984, with plans to go even further after that.

By comparison, Boeing is turning out a finished airliner, from the Boeing 747 jumbo down to its smallest aircraft, the 737, every day of the month.

But the European aircraft industry has plenty of room for expansion. This is particularly the case in Britain, which is a 20 per cent partner in A1, and where British Aerospace makes the wings for both the A300 and the A310.

Arthur Reed

## Italian oil irregularities denied

The chairman of Italian state oil company, ENI, Signor Giorgio Manzoni, said in Rome yesterday that he would resign unless the government told him to, and he denied any irregularities in the commission paid on ENI's oil deal with Saudi Arabia.

In an interview with the newspaper *La Repubblica*, Signor Manzoni said the loss of ENI's oil supplies from Saudi Arabia would be a severe blow for Italy. The Saudi contract with ENI was suspended on Wednesday because of Saudi displeasure over rumours in Rome about the commission payments.

The contract was for supply of 2.5 million tonnes of Saudi oil to ENI this year and for 5 million tonnes in both 1980 and 1981.

Asked if he thought the contract was definitely lost because of the Saudi decision, Signor Manzoni replied "absolutely not".

He declined to give details of who received the 7 per cent commission on the oil deal; the government has confirmed that commission was being paid as deliveries of the oil were made.

Signor Manzoni said he had told the prime minister and judicial authorities who received the commission, and denied that there were any irregularities in the way the commission was paid.—Reuter.

## Consumer protection 'may be costing £150m a year'

Legislation to protect consumers might be costing them more than £150m a year in taxes and higher prices, the Consumer Group claimed yesterday. This would be equivalent to 14p per £100 of household expenditure.

The group, an ad hoc body set up among 18 leading business organizations, including the CBI, Unilever, Cadbury, Schweppes, Beecham, Metal Box, and Reed International, commissioned a pilot study of the costs of consumer legislation from the Economist Intelligence Unit, published yesterday.

The way in which the figures were calculated has already been the subject of detailed criticism by the National Consumers' Council, largely because they involved grossing up from widely dispersed figures supplied by individual companies in only a few sectors of the market.

Shop stewards at British Shipbuilders' Tyne yard have ruled out "immediate strike action" in response to the company's decision to close its repair yards there and on the Thames in London.

The closure, part of the shipbuilding companies' recovery strategy, could mean the loss of 1,400 jobs.

Mr Joe Smith, secretary of the Tyne Ship Repair Yard shop stewards' committee said yesterday: "We are looking at view. Ship repairing will not die from a realistic point of view on the Tyne if we have anything to do with it."

A statement from the committee said members intended to begin negotiations shortly, to explore "responsible and realistic alternatives to both redundancies and closures".

Mr Smith said British Shipbuilders had told them that if their plan was not wholly or partly accepted they would be "finished".

Mr Tom Huddart, the shipbuilders' chairman, said: "We have alternatives but we are not prepared to say what they are."

A meeting with Mr Eric Mackie, managing director of the Ship Repair Division, has been provisionally arranged for next week.

The NCC's own estimate is that consumer protection legislation might be costing little more than 1p in every £10 of consumer expenditure.

Mr Harry Shepherd, of Marks and Spencer, the monitoring group's chairman, said he was confident they had arrived at "a reliable estimate". A spokesman for the group told a press conference yesterday that Fair Trading Act regulations accounted for a large part of the expense, and labelling requirements had been particularly troublesome to the food and textile industries.

Mr Shepherd said the cost of compliance with consumer protection legislation for Marks and Spencer alone had been put at more than £1m last year.

Among the group's recommendations it is suggested that no new consumer legislation should be introduced until the industries concerned have had the opportunity of self-regulation by codes of practice, breaches of which even by non-signatories might represent unfair or non-competitive trade practices. There should be a periodic review of all consumer protection legislation, and cost benefit analyses should be prepared and published before any new legislation was proposed.

The group also welcomes the suggestion, originally made by the Consumers' Association and recently endorsed by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, of a new and less costly system of law neither civil nor criminal, to provide consumer redress.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading, said last night: "Even if the figures are accurate it is £7 per household per year so much to pay to be protected from rogue traders, faulty goods and unfit food? It compares with £11.96 per household spent on the football pools."

Export promotion services, channelled largely through the British Overseas Trade Board (BOTB), face a cutback of £653,000 and a reduction in staff of 31 as part of the civil service cuts announced yesterday.

It is part of the cutback in Department of Trade spending from £184m this year to £148m in the next four years.

BOTB has a number of options, including reducing aid for overseas trade fairs and missions, to meet the cash reduction, but final decisions will be left until the report on export promotion services from Sir Derek Rayner, adviser to the Prime Minister on waste-cutting in Whitehall.

But there are fears, because of cutbacks earlier this year in BOTB services, that the manpower reductions can be met only by cutting out specific services.

Those at risk are likely to include the export intelligence service and the export marketing research service.

The cash cutbacks are expected to lead to reduced aid for large companies taking part in overseas trade fairs and missions.

## Scapa Group

### INTERIM REPORT

Half year to 30 September	1979	1978
Sales	£1,000	£1,000
Profit before taxation	34,590	53,581
Taxation	3,422	4,335
	1,637	1,583

Interim Dividend 2.5p 2.7p

Payable 25th January, 1980.

During the period activity in the main areas of business was maintained at a high level, but margins have been affected in the case of the UK companies by the strength of sterling and the increased cost of interest. The North American group has shown positive advance.

Scapa Group Limited, Oakfield House, 52 Preston New Road, Blackburn, Lancs. BB2 6AH.

## GUILDHALL PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED

Salient points from the Annual Accounts and Statement by Mr. L. H. Smith, the Chairman and Managing Director

- The profit before tax rose by £178,379 to £810,807, very much in line with my forecast a year ago. The increase in the rent roll during the year exceeded 30% and the rents receivable advanced by well over 20%. Interest received at nearly £140,000 was up by £40,000 but was earned on funds which have now largely been invested in the purchase of properties.
- These results and the lifting of dividend restrictions have enabled the Board to propose a final dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 3-435p, making a total for the year of 4-035p, an increase of 50% on last year covered 1-6 times.
- The company has only one property of about 36,500 square feet vacant. This is the subject of an Agreement for Lease and completion is expected early in the New Year.
- During the year we acquired a freehold property at Swindon, a small industrial estate of 15 freehold factories and warehouses at Lancing, Sussex, having a total floor area of about 95,000 square feet, and the freehold interest in two factories at Ruislip, Middlesex and one at Park Royal, where we already held the leasehold interests.
- My belief is that the Group will continue to make steady progress and I expect that 1980 will show rents received exceeding £1,000,000 for the first time, and a pre-tax profit of about £950,000.

Comparative results	1979	1978	1977
Rents receivable	£810,807	£720,323	£718,006
Profit before tax	£810,807	£832,228	£544,635
Profit after tax	£405,017	£318,258	£279,775
Profit retained	£147,962	£143,248	£121,814

## Insider dealing law 'not a threat to investment'

By Stephen Goodwin.

Fears that Government proposals to make insider dealing a criminal offence might threaten the expansion of share ownership were discounted yesterday by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State for Trade.

New clauses on the use of price-sensitive information by people in industry have been added to the Companies Bill which is now before a Commons standing committee. It will be an offence for those closely connected with a particular company to use such information to benefit themselves or others by means of share dealing. Mr Parkinson told the committee it was vitally important that small shareholders could be confident they were not being exploited in the market.

The Institute of Directors and a number of leading industrialists had expressed fears about the inhibiting effect of the Government proposals on director and employee shareholding. These representatives had been considered very carefully, said Mr Parkinson. The Government was strongly in favour of spreading share ownership and did not wish to promote proposals which prevented this.

"Nobody is prohibited from dealing unless he knows he possesses unpublished price-sensitive information. There

will be occasions when directors do know things which are not published and which, if revealed, would have an impact on the shares. They will know the distinction between the dry-as-dust knowledge they have about the business and the knowledge of factors which are going to affect the price.

"I do not believe the information most directors have on a daily basis need inhibit them in holding and dealing in their shares. It is because we believe that we are coming forward with our proposals."

Mr Parkinson urged financial institutions to play a more active role as shareholders in companies in which they held stock. He did not believe reputable institutions would take advantage of price-sensitive information obtained in such circumstances.

"We believe the institutions should be concerned, not just with stepping in when things go badly wrong in companies they have invested in. They should, as major shareholders, keep up an active pressure on companies generally to maintain and improve their efficiency and performance."

The Government has dropped the special power to appoint inspectors to investigate cases of insider dealing. It does not believe it is correct to provide such far-reaching powers, which threatened individual rights.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A suggested new mechanism for selling television time

From Mr L. Simmens

Sir, In the debate about a fourth channel and the allocation of regional franchises, the pressure use of the regional monopolies is causing some concern. In particular, the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers are recommending two contractors per region to try to give time-buyers some buying coverage. In this way they hope to limit the abuses of monopoly power which they now see.

It would like to propose a radical change in the market mechanism for selling television time which, while still giving the contractors the benefits of selling a scarce resource, prevents abuse of monopoly power and has advantages to advertisers.

I propose that each month the regional contractors have to sell at auction all the time they have for a period in the future—say the time available in the third month ahead. The buyers at this auction would be a number—30 would be enough to reduce the chances of collusion—of licensed dealers in television time. Only the 30 dealers could bid. Clearly, the time would have to be sold in fairly large standard packages.

The licensed dealers would then sell the time in small units (spots) to licensed advertisers or their agents, on a daily trading basis. Each day all dealings done would have to be reported to a market to be reported to a market control committee by the dealers. The committee would publish these deals each day.

The licensed advertisers would have the flexibility to buy time and, if plans changed, to sell it back to the market via dealers.

The market control committee would licence dealers and advertisers and oversee the activities of the market to prevent abuses.

This marketing system has, of course, many similarities to commodity markets from which it is derived.

To introduce the system legislation would be needed, or advertisers would have to agree as a body to impose such a system on their contractors.

The advantages of the system are many. Its abuse of monopoly power by, for instance, imposing excessive cancellation charges, would be avoided. The rather mysterious activities of agency time-buyers and television time salesmen would be replaced by a much more open type of market. Advertisers would know the relative prices of different spots without any clouding of the situation by special discounts, pre-emptive deals, etc.

The dealers should not be so large in number as to make contacting them for comparative offers too onerous, but enough so to prevent collusion. Also, the market committee would need to prevent abuses where one dealer, for instance, tries to "corner" the whole region. Possibly, the units of sale are monthly slots, which include time from all regions.

I hope this letter will stimulate thinking in what is now considered by many to be an unsatisfactory situation.

L. SIMMENS, The Grange, Thistleton, Oakham, Leicestershire.

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L. SIMMENS, The Grange, Thistleton, Oakham, Leicestershire.

## Bureaucratic shackling

From Mr F. S. Foreman

Sir, With so many major industries in decline, there is a strange and disturbing reluctance by government to remove obstacles and encourage development of smaller scale enterprises. Typical is the bureaucratic shackling of the fish farmer.

A decade has passed since the publication of Lord Cameron's Report calling for a Bill to remove bureaucratic obstruction and provide a legal framework, the lack of which brought about the decline of Scotland's fish industry. This report brought no action. Long forgotten, it moulders today in the House of Commons library.

Five years later, on April 9, 1975, the House of Lords Finance Committee, initiated by Baroness Emmet, who had carried out intensive research into the industry's problems and its vast possibilities. This debate, reported in *Financial Times*, 10/4/75, should have been made compulsory reading for trade ministers and MPs, past and present. There was no echo from the Lower House.

Eighteen months later, on October 13, 1976, Western Europe's neglect of aquaculture came under fire in the Strasbourg Assembly. Mr Colinet, of the Progressive Democratic Group, said: "As far as fishing, we are still in the Stone Age. The time has come for the age of aquaculture just as Cro Magnon man stopped picking berries off trees and turned to agriculture." He said that we should cultivate the sea—the continental shelf—as we cultivate a field of tomatoes or peas.

The National Farmers' Union has pressed successive governments for action to pass the simple Bill which would free

the struggling infant industry from the bureaucratic stranglehold that has stunted its growth to maturity. Success seemed in sight when, in May, 1978, the Expenditure Committee recommended the Callaghan Government "to introduce the necessary legislation as soon as possible". The chief and most powerful opponents were the Regional Water Authorities who kept their own nationwide chain of fresh fish farms for sporting purposes but, had there been support from the House of Commons, Britain's fish farm industry would by now have been making up for the years the locusts had eaten, trailing far behind Japan with its immediate post-war and fast growing industry, but at least making belated headway.

On November 28 last, Baroness Emmet, tireless champion of fish farming, returned to the charge with a Question in the Upper House: "To ask HM Government what steps they have taken to meet the NFU recommendations of 1978."

The reply was: "No decisions have yet been taken." (*House of Lords*, 403, 20/53).

It seems that whatever the colour of the party in power, either lack of vision, vested interest or just political ineptitude will ensure that Britain's fish farm industry has been assigned a permanent place at the bottom of the international league.

Yours faithfully, F. S. FOREMAN, (For Essexworth Harbour Fishermen's Federation; Member of the Sussex Fisheries Group), Essexworth Harbour Fishermen's Federation Ltd., c/o 74 Bosmore Gardens, Essexworth, Hampshire, PO10 7NP, December 3.

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## VAT problem with company credit cards

From Mr P. Heilbrunn

Sir, I am writing to express my concern at the proliferation of credit cards, particularly those intended for company use as opposed to private individuals.

It would suggest that employees have such company cards use them principally for motor and entertaining expenditure where VAT receipts or invoices are often not obtained.

Apert from the absence of proof of registration required by Customs and Excise to appear on VATable receipts, I am sure that much time is lost calculating VAT, not to mention a possible loss of recoverable VAT on allowable inputs. This must be especially so in the case of small companies with less sophisticated accounting procedures.

Is it too much to ask that credit card vouchers show a

supplier's VAT number? Better still the actual VAT?

Credit card companies must surely have the resources, given their vast computer installations. With service industries now adopting their own credit cards, I can only see this situation worsening.

Yours faithfully, PETER HEILBRUNN, 27 Poles Hill, Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

## EVANS OF LEEDS LIMITED

Property Investment Group  
UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS  
ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1979

	Half year to 30th Sept. 1979	Half year to 30th Sept. 1978
Gross rents receivable	1,609,979	1,395,341
Interest receivable	120,151	49,029
Profit from development and sale of properties	137,034	65,578
Sundry income	2,593	568
Less interest charges and other expenses	1,894,767	1,510,516
Profit before taxation	931,016	650,739
Interim dividend of 1p per share payable 11th January, 1980, (0.5p per share).	963,751	859,777

## THE TIMES 1000 1979/80

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## GEC beyond the recession

Close GEC-watchers should not have been surprised by a fall in interim profits; indeed the outcome of £155.2m a 41 per cent shortfall on the position at this stage last year, is almost exactly in line with the sort of estimates brokers like James Capel were coming up with a month ago.

Nevertheless, the stock market managed to work itself into a state after the results were published and GEC's shares ended the session 19p down at 318p. Of course engineering companies, including GEC, are finding the trading environment increasingly rough, though without strikes, both national and international, and other labour disputes all of which could well have cost profits up to £20m during the six months, GEC would have been ahead by now.

One only has to look at the divisional breakdown and power engineering results in particular to see how serious the damage was. Here, sales were down from £189m to £153m, bringing profits back by £14.4m to only £9.2m. Industrial and component results suffered a similar fate.

GEC reckons that it can recover at least some of the ground lost before the end of the year. But the fact is that even companies like this cannot avoid the effects of a serious engineering recession and a slowdown in world trade, although a bank balance of over £500m (after Aversys) provides more than a little comfort for shareholders who have no need to fear for their dividend. GEC is paying about a third more in interim dividend and, if it did the same for the year, the shares would yield about 31 per cent—nothing special, but safe.

The point about GEC is that it is beginning to divert its cash into trading assets, and concentrating on high technology areas or areas to which technology can be applied. The American AB Dick acquisition, the joint GEC/Fairchild semi-conductor operation and the recent purchase of Aversys are all examples of a developing strategy, the benefits of which should emerge as the general trading recession ends (assuming we are talking about a normal cycle).

If one believes that this strategy is correct (and the management record suggests that it should be) then this is the time to be buying the shares on a medium view.

### Racal

#### No forecast this time

Racal, another high-flyer, has also turned in a disappointing set of figures showing half-year pre-tax profits just 4 per cent ahead at £25.3 (and only 11 per cent up if the £1.75m lost from strikes and adverse currency swings is added back).

As if that was not a big enough blow to its fans who had been expecting at least £28m, Racal has eschewed its usual confident full year forecast because of "the uncertainties in international trading" which pushed the shares 20p lower, through several chart resistance points, to 195p.

No company of course can keep on growing at the sort of compound rate Racal has achieved in the 1970s and it is probably as well that the slowdown has come at a time when other electrical stocks like Plessey, Decca and even GEC are having an even harder time. And Racal still manages to get very high margins, an excellent return on capital while it has had success in finding acquisitions to produce fresh profits sources.

Racal's explanation for this sluggish performance is that the tactical radio and communications security sides are going through a rough patch. Contracts in tactical radio are now so much larger that they do not come in with the same regularity as they used to and this could well result in some lumpiness in Racal's profits in the future.

It is equally apparent, however, that margins are not what they were because of sterling, while the importance of the military side is diminishing. Luckily the push to data communications is bridging the gap for the time being and this now accounts for 36 per cent against 32 per cent a year ago of group revenues.

For the moment the contract delays are pushing up stocks and working capital although Racal's strong balance-sheet will not be troubled by that, and there are still

the occasional blackspots like magnetic tapes which are losing money.

Meanwhile, the drop in the shares by more than a third this year probably limits Racal's ambitions in restructuring the electrical industry although its stake in Decca's non-voting shares, and obvious interest in Ferranti, indicates it still has something up its sleeve. Full-year profits of, say, £66m puts the shares on a prospective p/e of around 14 and the likely yield is just over 3 per cent.

### JFB

#### Holding the dividend

Conditions in the bulk steel industry may seem awful but specialist groups like Johnson & Firth Brown can still put up a fight. Profits of £10.2m for the latest 15-month period represent a setback of about one-third on an annualized basis.

This was better than the market had expected given that interest charges mainly reflecting JFB's heavy capital spending programme had swept up to £5m against £3.6m in the last full-year and that the engineering strike probably cost the group about £5m.

However, the shares up 6p to 41p yesterday were taking account more of the fact that the group has managed to maintain the dividend payment—albeit by effectively bringing forward payment by three months on the new year end—and that JFB has apparently made a splendid acquisition move in the United States. Purchase of private aero-space supplier Cannon-Muskegon for \$9m, a price which represents an exit p/e of only 3, in fact, looks almost too good to be true.

The demand picture looks bleak with JFB suffering particularly in the forged and cast roll business, where exports account for about two-thirds of output, as a result of the strong pound. Weston-Evans, acquired in September last year has, however, done particularly well chipping in £2.25m to profits against £1.7m previously with half that total coming from the United States subsidiaries.

Offering a p/e of around 5 and yield of 17 per cent the shares are still on the appropriate crisis-rating for engineering stocks and will remain vulnerable until the next wages hurdle is cleared and a brighter picture emerges on the international trading front.

### GUS

#### Defensive virtues

Interim figures from Great Universal Stores reveal all the defensive virtues of this retailing giant. Though consumer demand in general has been slack through the summer, GUS has done well not merely from its finance division (thanks to the rise in interest rates), and from their traditional mainstay, mail order, but also, though improbably, from its high street furniture retailers.

The proof is there in the provisions for unearned profit on instalment and hire purchase receivable, up by £11m over the half-year, to the benefit of earnings hereafter. At the half-way stage profits are a solid 15 per cent better, at £75.5m pre-tax, on sales (excluding VAT) some 18.7 per cent higher at £751m.

GUS has no pretensions to immunity to the cold breeze whipping through the retail sector, though there are as yet no signs of any downturn in demand, and given a reasonable Christmas the group should quite comfortably top last year's £155m pre-tax.

Longer-term there could be more problems—and on more than one front, if the Government legislates for a form of inflation accounting which cuts away the tax shelter which retailers at present indiscriminately enjoy.

However, GUS has a great capacity to generate cash and still has plenty of it in the balance-sheet; so the 7 per cent increase in the interim dividend looks over-cautious. Assuming a 10 per cent increase overall, the shares at 350p yield a prospective 4.8 per cent. They look reasonably safe, but not at all exciting.

Caroline Atkinson examines the financial ramifications of the Iranian crisis

## How much damage to the dollar?

President Carter may have won popularity at home for his decision to freeze Iranian assets, but as the team of high-level United States officials flying around Europe are probably discovering, he has certainly lost it among the financial community outside America. Although they do not like to admit it publicly, many bankers and treasury officials also take a pretty dim view of his action.

The legal wrangles over Iran's assets grow daily more complicated and thus more threatening to the stability of the international financial system. They spring largely from the fact that the American freeze—with uncertain legal force—applies to the foreign subsidiaries of United States banks.

They have been made worse both because of the sheer quantity of Iranian assets held in these subsidiaries, and because of apparently aggressive moves by United States banks to ensure that they do not lose any money on their loans to Iran.

It is surprising that the Americans were apparently unaware of the scale of the dollar deposits Iran held in United States banks abroad. Several days after the freeze was announced, Robert Carswell, the deputy Treasury Secretary, confirmed that about \$4,000m of Iranian money was in such deposits, about half of the total to which the American freezing order applies.

It is far from certain that the Americans can make the freeze stick in English and other European courts. Their rather belated attempt to drum up support here and in other European capitals, will probably meet with European reluctance to become involved more directly in the money war.

One consequence of the crisis is that American banks are almost certain to suffer a loss of Opec business. An enormous proportion of the Opec surplus has been deposited with American banks and much of it in the United States.

William Miller, the United States Treasury Secretary, last week claimed the support of other Middle East countries for the American action. But there can be little doubt that some depositors will take the lesson that money can be made in the United States hands.

The oil exporters have been worrying since 1973 about whether their assets are too heavily concentrated in the United States in dollars. They have so far failed to diversify much at least partly because of the size and sophistication of the American capital markets compared with others.

What about the consequences for the dollar? After all, Iran has apparently said that one of its aims is to wreck the dollar's place in the international money system. The dollar fell sharply to an all-time low against the German mark early this week.

Although it has since recovered a little, it remains very vulnerable to bad news from Iran. The beginnings of a move out of dollars took place last year with the precipitous fall of the dollar against all the most important currencies. However, the lack of an obvious candidate to replace the dollar in the world's financial system has so far limited the movement.

It is almost certain that the Iran crisis will hasten the decline in the dollar's importance.

It is necessary to distinguish between the effects (and likely hood) of a switch away from the use of the dollar for pricing oil, for oil payments and

as a currency in which Opec surpluses are deposited. The Iranians have said that they want to do all three.

The first would have a minimal effect on the dollar: it would merely tend to increase the dollar price of oil if the dollar was weakening against other currencies, and vice versa.

The second would have an immediate impact on the dollar's rate. However, even the Iranians have so far continued to accept the United States currency for oil payments and a decision by Opec to demand other currencies is extremely unlikely.

In that event there would probably be a concerted move by the western central banks to support the dollar. In effect these central banks (most likely the German, Swiss and Japanese) would be buying up dollars for their reserves to provide liquidity for companies to buy oil.

As earlier explained, there are strong reasons why the oil exporters have continued to hold their money chiefly in dollars. The gradual development of the reserve role of other currencies will probably be accelerated by this crisis. But it must depend

to some extent on the willingness of other countries to share the burden of the reserve role with the United States and to open up their capital markets.

A sudden shift of Opec money out of dollars is also unlikely for the simple reason that they hold too many to be able to get out without spoiling the market.

A revival of interest in the substitution account is very likely. This would enable dollar holders to deposit these with the International Monetary Fund in exchange for special drawing rights—the fund's own asset. At the IMF meeting in Belgrade in September there was only lukewarm support for the idea.

A speeding up in the move towards such a plan can now be expected.

Much will depend on how long it is before the Iranian crisis is resolved (assuming that there is a peaceful resolution). If that happens very soon then the banking system and currency markets may be quickly back to normal.

If it is delayed far into the new year the Americans may find that their economic weapon against the Iranians boomerangs on to United States banks and the dollar.

## A hard day's talking for the steel unions

Peter Hill

The executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation must make several decisions today. The industry's largest union is being asked to co-operate in a plan to close down a number of plants.

About 30,000 workers face redundancy on top of the 20,000 employed at plants which are already the subject of formal closure notices. At a time when not enough to ponder at one meeting, the executive is being asked to accept a 2 per cent rise in the latest round of pay talks.

The pay offer has already been rejected by the union's negotiators and today a national strike is one of the options being discussed.

The issues are intricately linked. The corporation has no money to pay for even the 2 per cent rise, but if the strike goes ahead the consequences for employment could be even worse. The chance of survival might never reopen.

customers will be lost, and imports will surge into Britain.

William Sims, general secretary of the ISTC is fully aware of the industry's problems and his counsel will do much to determine the outcome of the meeting.

BSC, in the words of Sir Charles Villiers, its chairman, "is having to operate within very tight cash constraints". In plain words—those of Dr David Grievies, the managing director, personnel and social policy—"... we are bust".

There is no prospect of a crack of gold being found to meet the steelworkers' natural desire to keep up with rising costs.

Their anger at the derisory offer of understandable in normal times would no doubt have been appeased. But, as the corporation has now realized, these are not normal times. The traditional pattern of growth in steel demand has been substantially reduced.

reopening. That possibility will not be lost on the trade unions.

BSC defends its strategy on the grounds that the cuts in capacity and labour must be carried through if there is to be any real chance of moving towards a financial break-even.

In the first half of the year losses totalled £145.6m. At Llanwern the loss per employee was £945; at Short the world's loss of £21m was equivalent to £1,960 per worker.

The corporation is emphatic that no decisions have yet been taken on which plants will close and how many jobs will be lost in each. But the options have been carefully studied and the consequences of a strike mapped out.

The cuts are unpalatable and a serious blow to a corporation whose management is already badly demoralized and whose workers are disenchanted. It is in this depressing climate that the leaders of the ISTC will have to reach their decision.

### Technology

## Metals with a memory of their own

A metal with a memory is likely to make its commercial debut in a number of new products next year. A phenomenon, known as the shape-memory effect, is at the heart of these intriguing new developments.

A shape-memory alloy, formed into a shape at one temperature and then deformed into another shape at a second temperature, will "remember" its original shape and revert to it if the conditions are right. In effect, it will revert to its old shape when "reminded" by being subjected to the original temperature. Thus a change in temperature can produce a movement or a force in a mechanism containing one of the special alloys.

For an alloy to exhibit this effect it must have a certain type of crystal structure which, under the influence of temperature changes, can be transformed from one condition to another (known as martensite) and back again. From this martensite transformation shape-memory alloys are known also as martensite alloys.

In an article in the November issue of *Scientific American* the shape-memory effect is traced back to research at Harvard and at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1938. Since then

it has been demonstrated in a number of alloys, including brass (an alloy of copper and zinc), iron-platinum, iron-nickel, nickel-aluminium and stainless steel.

An important new martensite alloy was discovered in 1962 at the United States Naval Ordnance Laboratory (now the Naval Surface Weapons Centre) in Maryland. This was a combination of nickel and titanium known as Nitinol.

Though expensive, Nitinol was used in a variety of aerospace applications. One was in a launching device on a British satellite, in which a Nitinol torsion tube triggered the release of three instrument booms.

Another use was in coupling hydraulic fluid tubes in the F-14 fighter aircraft. A Nitinol sleeve was machined to an internal diameter slightly less than the outer diameter of the tubes to be joined, then cooled and mechanically expanded so that it would fit over the tubes. On resuming its original temperature, the sleeve shrank to give a tight seal.

Nitinol has been used in many down-to-earth products, too, including wire for teeth braces, where it maintains its shape against the teeth much

better than the more customary stainless steel. Perhaps its widest application is in the pneumatic drive mechanism of recording and industrial control instruments, where it replaces the galvanometer.

In one type of shape-memory application, that of thermal actuators, a world lead is now being claimed for the United Kingdom by the Delta Metals group. Delta's material is a shape-memory brass and its potential for a variety of products is being promoted by a recently formed company within the group, Delta Memory Metals of Ipswich.

Delta's martensite alloy research began in 1972, and has been reinforced by subcontracted product development at Cambridge Consultants. Now DMM is supplying components (typically springs) for incor-

poration in other companies' finished products.

One early design was for an automatic window opener which would be suitable for greenhouses. As the temperature rises above about 65°C the shape-memory spring begins to extend, overcoming the force of a bias spring and opening the window. As the air temperature drops, the window closes again.

Another practical use for the Delta shape-memory brass is in a car clutch fan. Vauxhall is believed to be evaluating this and several other car manufacturers are interested.

A thermostat radiator valve is another vehicle possibility. Thermostats and other temperature-controlling jobs in industry and in domestic use give a host of other potential applications.

Dr Tony Michael, manager of Delta Memory Metals, expects that the first products to use his company's shape-memory brass will come into the marketplace next year. The first must be the window-opener, a thermal cut-out device, or the clutch fan.

For the designer, shape-memory metals combine the essential simplicity of a solid-state device with extreme thermal sensitivity. The properties of the alloy depend critically on its composition.

"We are the people producing this material at the moment," Dr Michael said. "People come to us and we can design thermal actuators for them. Nobody else—worldwide—can do that."

Kenneth Owen

## Business Diary: Dennis's menaces • On the hop

Dennis Landau has demonstrated notable competence this last five years as deputy chief executive of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. This is the £1,700m-a-year Manchester mammoth that supplies goods and services to the Co-op retail societies and acts as an ideas workshop for retailers.

But it looks as if his succession to the chief executive's chair, being announced next September by Sir Arthur Sugden, is by no means assured. Sir Arthur took the job after being deputy, but prolonged discussions in Manchester this week have yet to produce a decision that would mean Landau doing the same. Landau is a former Cadbury-Schweppes foods managing director who joined CWS eight years ago.

He is essentially a production and general management man but it appears that some of the CWS board are rooting for something different. The message seems to be: why not appoint from the stamp end of the business?—i.e. retailing. Here the Co-op still by far our largest retailing operation, is under pressure from the big multiples.

Recruiting from outside the movement is always an option, but CWS does not necessarily have to look so far. Apart from Alf Lee, chief executive of the thriving Co-operative Retail Services (32 per cent net profit last time on sales of £400m), there is the deceptively relaxed Frank Doherty. He is the man who at the Greater Nottingham Society has pushed turnover from £64m to £110m since he took over as chief executive two-and-a-half years ago.



"I've written to all 127 on our list to warn them we are not sending cards this Christmas."

● The troubled brewers Belhaven of Dunbar will resume their annual meeting today and appoint their fifth chairman in four months.

● A quick run down the unhappy list starts in July when Gordon Currie, accountant and former assistant to Eric Morley, the former Mecca chief, left the board after difficulties over the payment of the Belhaven dividend. This was covered by a subsidiary controlled by Roy Ling who would only agree to authorize payment if he became chairman.

● After a few weeks at the Belhaven helm he had not dispelled the unhappiness in the boardroom. No official statement explained why, but Ling departed and was replaced by Peter Rowland.

● The boardroom was still unsettled and after a series of rows Rowland was replaced three weeks ago by Ronnie Aitken.

● The fifth head of the company in four months will be Mr World? Eric Morley, who will today be appointed joint chairman and chief executive.

● One of Sir Michael Edwards's top executives at BL has been successful in his job that he has made himself redundant.

● John Hirsch, 49, was recruited by Sir Michael nearly two years ago from the Lex motor group. As director of products and marketing strategy for BL cars he was given a key role in the newly reshaped sales organization.

● With each of the car companies going their own way after the break-up of BL Cars, Hirsch was needed to provide "generic central direction"—in other words, to stop friendly rivalry becoming costly internal warfare.

● Born in Munich of British extraction and married to an American, he had a considerable international track record, mainly with Ford Europe. His posts included those of managing director of Ford Switzerland and sales director of Ford Germany.

● But so successfully did Hirsch demonstrate the need for more central control of sales that four months ago Sir Michael admitted to a gathering of his "small is beautiful" theory writer and said he was merging home and overseas car sales into a single operation, BL Europe and Overseas, or Bleo as it is known internally. The top job went not to Hirsch but to Tony Ball, deputy managing director (commercial) Austin Morris.

● Hirsch, who speaks fluent French and German, will be leaving BL's London headquarters early next year. Officially he is said to be planning to set up shop as a consultant.

● Will economists leave nothing alone? In a new book David Throsby and Glenn Withers assert:

$Z = n[LyQPOP]^{1/Y}$

Believe it or not they are discussing whether public spending on the arts reflects the wishes of the average voter or those of a privileged few. Business Diary isn't clear what their answer is.

● Not all of the book, *The Economics of the Performing Arts* (Arnold, £17.50), is so inaccessible. Indeed, the authors, two Australians, divide each chapter into a technical and non-technical section.

● Although it is all right to skip the equations, the authors say, mathematicians who skip the general sections will lose the thread.

● The popular image of the starving artist and bankrupt impresario are examined, as in the case for government support, based on experience in Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

● "There may be some a priori basis for justifying resort to public assistance for the performing arts," the authors conclude. "The authors conclude, particularly in the areas of national feeling and social inquiry."

It's an ill wind... Women in Iran may still be washing their clothes at the riverside as their mothers did before them, but they are now doing so in rubber gloves. Glove makers RBC say they are selling lots there.

Ross Davies

## Cawoods

### Interim Report

- Group turnover £134m increased by 28%.
- Group pre-tax profit £5.4m increased by 52%.
- All the main trading activities earned increased profits but in refractories, concrete pipes and packaging, profits were somewhat lower due to competitive market conditions.
- The second half has started well; if there is no serious industrial action and given normal winter weather another record result should be achieved.

### Summary of Results

	Half year to 30th September 1979	Half year to 30th September 1978	Year to 31st March 1979
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	134,786	105,202	236,998
Profit before taxation	5,392	3,543	9,450
Profit after taxation	2,579	1,657	5,109
Earnings per ordinary share	5.29p	3.42p	10.54p
Interim dividend per ordinary share	1.40p	0.54p	2.77p



Cawoods Holdings Limited, Southlands, Ripon Road, Harrogate HG1 2HY.

Fuel Distribution, Building and Road Materials, Quarries, Ready Mixed Concrete, Refractories, Container Shipping, Packaging.



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Rhodesia the only bright spot in the gloom

Gloomy company news again dominated the stock market yesterday as it continued on its downward journey.

Interim figures from GEC and Racal, both below market expectations, sent a cold shiver through the market, while at the same time throwing it into reverse, after what had been thought quite a firm start to the day.

Confirmation of a bearish brokers' circular from Hoare Govett did little to help sentiment, while dealers began to square their positions as the long three-week account began to draw to a close.

Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement is a classic turnaround situation. In the six months to June, it lost £217,000 before tax. A year earlier, it had interim profits of £522,000. This year, Aberthaw will only start to benefit from decar cement and a kiln conversion from gas to coal but next year cost-savings should flow through strongly in profits. These were £1.5m in both 1975 and 1976.

As expected, the only bright spot in the market concerned the announcement of a cease-fire agreement in Rhodesia on Wednesday, sending Rhodesian bonds and shares with strong business ties with that country sharply higher. Southern Rhodesia 21 per cent, 65-70 rose £3 to £118, with Southern Rhodesia 41 per cent 87-92 putting on £4 to £102 and Southern Rhodesia 6 per cent 78-81, gaining £2 to £150.

Talk of a further rise in MLR in the New Year was soon discounted by the gilt-edged market, which continued to have a sadly neglected look about it. One reason dealers reported very little interest in the new "rap" Treasury 15 per cent 1985 which closed at 99.5, down 1.

After initial falls of £1, longs eventually managed to muster a small rally, to finish off the bottom, with falls averaging about £1. Shorts averaged falls of about £1.

Opening 1.4 up, the FT Index went on to close at its lowest point of the day, 6.9 down at 4117.

Leading industrials went easier after a firm start.

Fillington Bros continued to reel as a result of its call to shareholders to raise £50m, falling a further 5p to 213p.

ICI dipped 3p to 353p and Glaxo was easier by the same amount to 420p ahead of the AGM on Monday. Unilever shed 4p to 453. Among companies retreating 2p were Fisons at 232p, Becton at 115p, B&A's at 243p and Rank Organisation at 172p. Courtaulds was a penny lighter at 77p.

The Rhodesian ceasefire saw an upsurge of interest in companies trading out there among which Stocklake jumped 6p to 106p, Lombard improved 3p to 73p, as did Mitchell Cotts 2p to 35p. Capri Industries was 1p firmer at 22p, while Turner & Newall went against the trend sliding a penny to 122p.

Disappointing figures and bad news left the electrical sector looking weak. A 4 per cent rise in profits at Racal was enough to wipe 20p from the shares at 159p. Interim figures from GEC were even less well received with market expectations as a result of the engineers' strike.

This left a big question mark hanging over the rest of the sector, shortly followed by news that MK Electric had placed one of its subsidiaries on a four-day week. This sent the shares retreating 22p to 32p. Elsewhere, in the electricals, Pleco, which reported second-quarter figures earlier in the week, faded 3p to 106p, while Decca succumbed to profit-taking as

rumours of an imminent bid began to recede. The ordinary finished the day 20p off at 310p and the "A" was 15p lighter at 260p.

Highland Distillers gained ground, 2p to 142p, as the prospect of a fierce defence of the bid from Canadian group Hiram Walker began to take shape. Montfort (Knitting) also improved as the battle for control between David Dixon and Palma Textiles continued to hot up.

Engineering continued depressed, with Wapac's share price falling 25p to 63p following the news of the litigation from Qatar and the withdrawal of Costain from bid talks.

Baker Perkins rose 2p to 83p after further reflection of Wednesday's figures and GKN improved 1p to 253p, while Dowty retreated 3p to 141p.

Great Universal Stores was the centre of attraction in stores where profits slightly above market expectations meant for a 2p fall to 350p. House of Fraser eased 4p to 113p and Debenhams lost some of its earlier gains dipping 2p to 69p.

Following a large option deal earlier this week, the shares of engineering group, Bridon rose 8p to 58p yesterday. The share price collapsed a couple of months ago after poor results and market news of the activity as little more than buying on current weakness.

Among companies reporting, Cawoods climbed 5p to 152p after its 52 per cent leap in pre-tax profits and nine-month

figures were good for a 3p rise to 152p. Cawoods, the Harrogate-based fuel distribution to building services group, started the year with a 52 per cent boost to profits, which put the share price up 5p to 152p.

Pre-tax profits jumped from £3.5m to £5.4m and turnover rose by 28 per cent to £134m in the half year to September 30, 1979. The turnover expansion reflected increased volume as well as higher prices of all products, explained Mr Edward Binks, chairman.

Although the main trading activities showed increased profits, the concrete pipes, refrac-

tories and packaging operations were hit by competition and reduced demand although there are signs that refractories are now improving.

The group's oil distribution side succeeded in reversing last year's downward trends trend although rises in prices and consumer resistance created considerable difficulties, said Mr Binks. The turnaround is expected to continue in the second half.

The coal operation suffered from a shortage of domestic fuel despite the National Coal Board's efforts to increase production. Early summer demand

## Rise of 52pc at Cawoods

By Rosemary Unsworth

Cawoods Holdings, the Harrogate-based fuel distribution to building services group, started the year with a 52 per cent boost to profits, which put the share price up 5p to 152p.

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The coal operation suffered from a shortage of domestic fuel despite the National Coal Board's efforts to increase production. Early summer demand

was particularly high after the cold winter and given the prospect of an early price rise which came through on July 1. Building and road materials maintained their contributions to group profits after expansion in building materials and rationalization.

Cawoods has pushed up the interim dividend from 0.8p gross to 2p to reflect a more normal balance between the interim and final after the period of dividend restraint.

Mr Binks said that the second half had started well and that the group expected another record result.

## Fine Art aims for record year

By Alison Mitchell

Increased interest charges robbed greetings card and mail order group Fine Art Developments of much of its first half improvement.

At the trading level profits rose by over a fifth but pre-tax profits fell forward only 6 per cent from a previous £1.2m to £1.3m. Sales, in the half year to September 30, 1979, went ahead £2.5m to £2.7m.

However borrowing traditionally peak in September, so the

costs of holding high stocks will be lower in the second six months and Mr Francis Kerry, chairman, forecasts a record profit for the 12 month period.

In the year to March 31, 1979, the group turned in £5.5m pre-tax, a figure which would have been higher but for a pre-Christmas fire.

Largest changes in the six months rose from £39,000 to £67,000.

The results also show a below-the-line extraordinary debit of £196,000. This relates

to the interim costs of introducing new computer processing equipment.

Demand, both overseas and at home, remains buoyant. The gross interim dividend goes up from 1.34p to 1.42p but Mr Donald Barnes, managing director, reports that this is not necessarily an indication of the increase in the final payout.

The shares at 58p yield a historic 5.18 per cent while, if the year's profits rise to £6.25m, the prospective yield drops to 9.5.

## British Tar up 13pc

By Our Financial Staff

British Tar Products, the bulk storage, chemical manufacturing and merchandising group, has continued its steady profits growth. Pre-tax profits rose by 13 per cent and turnover by 29 per cent in the first half year.

They amounted to £812,000, compared with £717,000 and turnover was £112m against £87.7m in the months to September 30, 1979. The group saw a small six-per cent contribution from its recent £2m purchase

of Hodgson Tanning Products from British Tanners Products receivers. Hodgson was said to be the only profitable part of British Tanners at the time of the acquisition with profits believed to be about £400,000 a year.

The storage, merchandising and chemical manufacturing divisions all traded satisfactorily, according to Mr F. W. Buckley, chairman. But margins suffered from the chemical export slump because of stiff competition in Europe and the United States.

Although the group's new chemical manufacturing plant in Hull had teething troubles which were exacerbated by the jerry drivers' dispute last winter, it has now made "considerable progress" with results in August and September.

The group believes that despite the forecast of difficult conditions for the rest of the year, it will see a similar profits rise in the second six months. The interim dividend rises from 0.85p to 0.86p gross.

## ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

Unincorporated in the Republic of South Africa

## NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF ORDINARY SHARE WARRANTS

TO BE FORWARDED TO THE PAYMENT OF COUPON NO. 92

With reference to the notice of declaration of dividend and advice of the coupon, on 28th November 1979, the following information is published for the convenience of holders of share warrants to bearer.

The dividend of 30 cents per share (as declared in South African currency) will be paid on 28th November 1979 to the following:

(i) At the offices of the following:

Anglo American Corporation, 1000 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019

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## Kleinwort purchase

By Ronald Pullen

Kleinwort Benson, the City merchant bank, is expanding its international business through the purchase of a 75 per cent stake in a private German bank. The interest in Bankhaus Metzger & Weyhausen is to be acquired from Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale for around £7.3m, £6m of which is the asset value, and the balance representing the expected undisclosed and legal reserves at the end of the year.

Despite the ending of exchange controls, Mr J. Caldwell, vice-chairman of Klein-

wort, argues that banking operations abroad can be more easily done through a direct overseas representation, as the bank has found with the rapid expansion of its Hongkong activities recently.

Kleinwort's sales link with the German bank being particularly useful in the financing of exports to Germany and in helping the German subsidiaries of United Kingdom companies. There is also the hope that the link with NORDB/LB will increase cooperation between the two, the first fruits of which have already been seen in the recent EIB issue

## Only a slight fall at LRC group

By Alison Mitchell

Despite a gloomy forecast at the annual meeting, LRC International, the maker of rubber goods and surgical appliances, managed nearly to maintain interim profits.

Better trading in the second quarter saw pre-tax profits only slightly lower at £3.2m in the six months to September 30, 1979 on sales 12 per cent higher at £54m.

An increase in capital spending, which is running at an annual rate of around £2m, raised interest charges to £1.2m in the six months, against a previous £600,000 and year-end

gearing is likely to rise from a previous 59 per cent to 63 per cent.

Demand for gloves and contraceptives has increased, but the overall volume of LRC products - which account for 40 per cent of group sales - has been falling and the same rise from this side has come from a 10 per cent increase in prices.

Profits from the overseas division - which takes in Nigeria, India and Iran - fell in the first half but they are expected to do better in the second six months. The company in Iran, which is 50 per

cent owned, made a first half loss but the group is anticipating a full-year contribution.

Elsewhere trading was mixed with the new plants which have come on stream, coupled to the take-over of Cook & Bates helping prospects.

Sir Edward Howard, chairman, yesterday expressed speculation that the group is about to be the subject of a bid. "I have not received a single approach," he said.

The shares, slightly stronger at 27p yesterday, yield a historical 12 per cent dividend. The interim dividend has been maintained at 0.99p.

## Morgan Crucible tops £10m after nine months

Pre-tax profits at carbon product's and component manufacturer Morgan Crucible continue to forge ahead. In the nine months to September 30, 1979 the figure rose from £9.3m to £10.5m on sales up £9.4m to £83.3m.

The strength of the pound against the dollar did not help profits. But Mr Ian Weston Smith, chairman, says that the spread of the group's business enables it to ride out short-term exchange fluctuations.

Profits in the final quarter ought to show a further increase. Order books are strong.

The report shows a below-the-line credit of £345,000 which relates to the insurance claim from the last year's fire at the Liege ceramics factory. A further £278,000 has been credited to the nine month trading profit.

The group's largest division, carbon, increased its trading profit from £4.6m to £5m in the period. The shares rose 5p to 112p yesterday.

ment Trust, the Rothschild Investment Trust, offshoot. Yesterday 25,000 Dawney Day ordinary shares were bought for associates of Hume at 60p. RIT already owns 5.6 per cent of Dawney Day.

**Talbot Group optimistic**

Following the slump into losses in 1978-79, the Talbot Group has achieved a profit for the first quarter of the current year, considerably higher than for the similar quarter last year. The board believes Talbot will be reporting "satisfactory results" for the current 12 months. The group made a pre-tax loss of £131,000 in 1978-79, compared with a profit of £573,000 the year before.

The auditors report states that they have been unable to satisfy themselves that the going-concern basis on which the three Fair-Air companies in the air-conditioning division are included in the accounts is appropriate and that the bank overdraft facilities will continue to be available.

of trading profits, which reflects the combined impact of tax losses brought forward, etc.

Group turnover was up from £10.85m to £13.09m. Following the May rights issue and the sale of the premises at Winnall, which together generated about £1.4m, the group has been able to substantially reduce its group bank borrowings to £407,000 on Sept 30. Shareholders' funds jumped by 53 per cent to £3.81m. A total dividend of 2.81p is being paid, compared with 1.49p last time.

**ECGD guarantees \$5m credit for Chile**

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a \$5m credit facility for a US\$5m line of credit which N. M. Rothschild & Sons has made available to the Banco de Chile.

This is the first ECGD-backed line of credit to be made available to Chile since cover was resumed for United Kingdom exports sold on medium-term credit.

The loan will help finance United Kingdom capital goods and associated services contracts placed in the United Kingdom by Chilean buyers. United Kingdom exporters will receive 85 per cent of the contract price from the loan; the remaining 15 per cent is payable from the buyers' own resources. To qualify under the terms of the loan, a contract must be of minimum value of US\$40,000 and be placed by December, 1980.

ordinary items of £226,000 have been credited to profits, compared with £173,000 last time. The total dividend is being raised from 9.81p to 10.53p gross.

**Little interim growth at Cope Allman**

Cope Allman International expects its first-half pre-tax profit to be only 5 per cent higher at about £5.7m, said Mr L. J. Manson, chairman, at the annual meeting. The interim dividend of 1.17p gross, although the group's operating profit in the six months to

December 31 1979 should show an improvement, the pre-tax profit shortfall is in the engineering division. But all other divisions did better he added. The year's profits are expected to exceed 1978-79's record £11.4m.

**Another peak result from Flexello Castors**

Topping the £800,000 mark for the first time, Flexello Castors and Wheels is boosting its total gross dividend from 4.88p to 5.32p for the year to September 30. On turnover 15 per cent greater at £9.61m, pre-tax profits moved up by 14.5 per cent to a fresh record of £812,000.

The board says some benefits arising from new products in the current year and subject to the effects of inflation and demand, it would normally expect further advances in profits. However, because of the economic outlook, it feels it will be difficult to match the 1978-79 performance.

**Short working at MK offshoot**

MK Electric Limited, a subsidiary of MK Electric Holdings, has announced a temporary period of four-day working at its factories in the Edmonton, Southend and Hastings areas with effect from January 7.

The higher costs - mainly interest and wages - and reduced pre-tax margins led to this decision were referred to by the group chairman at the company's recent interim announcement.

3.35p (2.91p). Holders of "B" ordinary shares to receive scrip issue in "B" shares, equivalent in asset value to year's dividend. Interim of 1.21p (1.14p) for current year.

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**

Turnover for half-year to June 30, 1979, £695,000. Pre-tax profit £19,000 (£50,000).

**Options**

The disappointing interim figures from GEC dominated the traded options market today where business completed amounted to 1.34 of the total number of contracts completed on 364 on Wednesday. Most activity centred around the January 30p and 35p as well as the April 33p and 36p. Some activity was also reported in the January 30p to 42p series.

Declaration day among traditional options passed almost unnoticed as dealers reported quiet trading conditions. The market is centred on situation in the company's shares, Racal, LRC International, Whesee, and Coral Leisure featured. Some speculative interest was also seen in Bridon.

## Hitachi rises 20 pc

Hitachi, Japan's major electronic company, says that its consolidated net profit in the first half to last September 30 increased 20 per cent to 55,296m yen from 46,197m yen in the like year-earlier period, supported by brisk sales of high-value-added products.

Sales rose 13 per cent to 1,432,000m yen from 1,268,000m yen the year before. Net profit and sales in the period hit new highs for any half-year term.

Net income a share increased 19 per cent to 21.11 yen.

higher profitability achieved through the implementation of cost-cutting measures - AP-DJ.

COMMERCIALBANK will raise its capital by DM22.4m on a cash premium basis in order to adjust to further growth in business volume. This will raise the bank's share capital by DM100.5m to DM243.4m. Subscription will be on a one-for-one basis. - AP-DJ.

**International**

Hitachi's financial statement shows that the main reasons behind the rise in sales were a good performance by such items as computers, semiconductor, room air-conditioners and other some high-value-added products.

The better net profit figure resulted primarily from larger sales of high value-added products, particularly in the electronics sector, a general improvement in operating rate and

Mr Macafee said that Gulf's earnings are better balanced since 55 per cent of profits come from the United States, compared with only 38 per cent in 1974.

## TOTAL COMPAGNIE FRANCAISE DES PETROLES

## Consolidated Results for First Half 1979

TOTAL Group consolidated results for first half, 1979 compared to those for the same period in 1978, may be summarized as follows:

	1st half 1978 (million Fr. F.)	1st half 1979 (million Fr. F.)
Sales before taxes	28,345	34,224
Cash Flow	1,664	4,249
Less Depreciation and Provisions	(1,355)	(2,034)
Net Group Income	309	2,215
of which:		
CFP Share	260	1,639
Minority Interests	49	576

1. Sales before taxes showed a growth of 20%, due essentially to the increase in crude oil prices during the first half of 1979 (prices were increased on January 1, 1979, further price increases were applied by the producing countries).

2. French accounting standards require that inventories be valued according to the FIFO Method (first in, first out). As a result inventory appreciation had a considerable effect on the cash flow, of the order of F1.5 billion. Inventories as at June 30, which are credited to the operating account, are valued at the latest prices for the half year and thus include the crude oil price increases which occurred during the period.

The amount corresponding to this effect on inventories is moreover immediately used to finance inventory replacement at higher price levels. If the LIFO method had been used (last in, first out) as is frequently the case with international oil companies, cash flow would have been F2.7 billion. This figure can be compared to that of F1.7 billion for first half, 1978, a period during which the effect of appreciation on inventories was negligible. The improved performance in terms of cash flow without taking into account the effect of inventories was derived mainly from recovered margins in the refining and marketing activities in Europe and made it possible to reobtain a more normal return on capital invested.

3. Depreciation and provisions at F2.034 billion, show a considerable increase; certain amounts having been set aside in respect of some group assets abroad due to uncertain political situations.

4. On the basis of the statutory FIFO method, the net income of the group amounted to F2.215 billion. Had it been calculated according to the LIFO method, inventory appreciation would not have appeared, as such it would be closer to economic fact and would amount to approximately F700 million (which, when compared with the group's capital stock (of the order of F15.6 billion), represents a return of 9% per annum).







§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**Contact Sylvia Priest,**  
MBS, Booth Street West, Manchester M15 6PB Tel: 061-273 8278

[illegible]



## £10,000 plus Appointments

## POLITICAL EDITOR

The BBC is looking for a Political Editor to succeed David Holmes who shortly becomes Chief Assistant to the Director General.

The Political Editor leads the BBC's team of Political and Parliamentary Correspondents, and is the senior source of programme advice on political and parliamentary coverage for editors in radio and television. The successful candidate will be a political journalist of the highest calibre. An effective broadcasting presence in radio and television, the ability to undertake live commentary, and a thorough grasp of the BBC's output needs in this field are essential. Lobby and Gallery experience is desirable.

The Political Editor is based at Westminster. Salary will reflect the status and importance of this post and will take account of the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Relocation expenses considered.

Contact us immediately for application form (quote reference number 15247/79 and enclose a.c.b. 1000). Applications to: BBC, Appointments, London, W1A 1AA. Telephone 01-580 4468 Ext. 4619.

BBC

## CSV

## Assistant Director (FINANCE &amp; ADMINISTRATION)

Each year over 4000 young people are involved in service through CSV. The Schools Advisory Service, Youth Employment Schemes, Media Programmes (tv and radio) plus Full-time Volunteer Programmes, including bursar trainees and children in care, all pioneer new patterns of community involvement.

As head of the central administration, the Assistant Director will be responsible for budgetary control, personnel administration and supervision of central services.

Salary £10,059 p.a. plus membership of local authority pension scheme.

Full details and application form from Catrina Clarkson, extension 55.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AGENCY

237 Pentonville Road, London N1 9NJ (01-278 6601)

## Kuwait Airways Corporation

Invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for the post of:

## JOB ANALYST

Applicants must have a minimum of five years' airline experience on such a job.

Salaries are attractive, fringe benefits such as privilege travel, free medication, tax-free income.

Interested applicants may submit their detailed applications to:

The Personnel Director  
Kuwait Airways Corporation  
P.O. Box 384 Kuwait

KUWAIT AIRWAYS

## JOSEPH ROWNTREE MEMORIAL TRUST

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR—FINANCE

Based at the Trust's Headquarters in York

The Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust is a substantial national charity with strong local roots in York. The value of its assets is around £40 million, made up of investments of £25 million and housing assets—mainly the Village of New Earswick—of £15 million.

The funds of the Trust are used for research and investigation into issues in the housing and social policy fields throughout the United Kingdom. In addition the Trust administers, on behalf of the Government, the Family Fund with an expenditure of £2,750,000 a year for families with very severely handicapped children.

An Assistant Director—Finance is now sought on retirement of the present holder at the end of 1980. The person will be responsible to the Director and the Trustees for the financial and accounting aspects of the Trust's work, including the day-to-day management of the investment portfolio. Knowledge of housing finance would be an advantage. The top management organisation of the Trust consists of the Director and three Assistant Directors, covering Finance, Housing and the Family Fund respectively. The appointment is therefore an important one. The Trust is seeking a person of proven financial ability and a breadth of experience and vision which will encourage a full involvement in the work of the Trust. It is unlikely that a candidate of below 35 years of age will have had the necessary experience.

An appropriate salary, which is expected to be in five figures, will be negotiated. Generous pension, life assurance and sick pay arrangements, and a car are provided. A contribution towards removal expenses will be paid.

Applications to be returned by Friday, 11th January, 1980.

Further details may be obtained from—

Brenda Clayton  
Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust  
Beverly House  
Shipton Road  
York YO3 6BB  
Tel.: York (0804) 29241

## P&amp;I/OFFSHORE LIABILITY UNDERWRITER

Outstanding opportunity for person in 30/45 age group, with Market/Club experience, required to fill Senior Underwriting post and to help develop an expanding offshore liabilities department.

Salary in region of £13,000 p.a.

Applications will be treated in strictest confidence and should be made in writing, together with C.V. to

Andrew Barker,

The West of England Ship Owners

Mutual Insurance Association

(London Ltd.),

1 Peppys Street, London, E.C.3.

## INTERFLORA

The International Trade Association with over 2,000 members and a Headquarters staff of over 70, based in Lincolnshire, requires a

## CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR/COMPANY SECRETARY

to undertake and take over from the present Secretary who is due to retire in October 1980, after 20 years' service.

An accountancy degree, professional qualification, supported by an accountancy background, and familiarity with computer based systems is essential.

The duties cover a wide range of responsibilities, including administration, personnel, legal, pensions and insurance, and include international travel. A good all round administrative experience is essential, including the preparation and documentation of Council, Executive and various Committee meetings and Annual General Meetings and A.G.M.s.

The successful applicant will commence as soon as available. Salary circa £25,000 per annum.

If you think you have the necessary initiative, drive and experience, please apply in writing giving full details of your qualifications, past experience, etc., to: The Company Secretary, Interflora (ITA) British Unit Ltd., Interflora House, LEAFORD, Leics. LE15 2TD.

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS EXAMINATIONS BOARD

## SECRETARY TO THE BOARD (£11,500-£12,500)

The Examinations Board is responsible for the Society's role as a major examining body principally in business studies, including accountancy, and languages. The level of examinations ranges from elementary to post-graduate, with around 70,000 candidates being handled each session.

As a result of a reorganisation of the Society's Examinations Department the present Secretary to the Board will be the newly created post of Chief Officer and will retain overall management responsibility for the work of the whole Department.

Applications are now invited for the post of Secretary to the Board. The new Secretary to the Board will be responsible to the Chief Officer for the academic

division of the Examinations Department and will have full responsibility for servicing the work of the Board and its various committees. The appointment will be based in London.

The successful candidate will be required to have considerable experience in a post of senior responsibility connected with examination and will be expected to assist in the continued development of the Board's examinations.

The salary for the post will be £11,500-£12,500.

Further details may be obtained from Robert Cherry-Fraser, MSc, (Chief Officer Designate), Royal Society of Arts Examinations Board, 3 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ. Applications should be sent to the Secretary to the Board not later than 31st December, 1979.

## £10,000 plus Appointments are featured every Friday

For details ring 01-278 9161

## DIRECTOR £10,000+

The British Sports Association for the Disabled, a registered charity founded in 1961, is a coordinating and developing body of sport for people of all ages and disabilities.

The Director will be responsible to the National Executive Committee and will assist them, inter alia, in formulating and implementing plans and policy; working with sports organisations for the disabled; and helping to represent the case for disabled sport at all local, national and international levels.

This challenging and responsible post is open to applicants 30-55. Further information and application form obtainable from Colin Rance, Chairman BSAD National Executive, 19 Berkeley St., London W1X 6JN. Closing date for applications 4th Jan., 1980.

## Appointments Vacant

## THE TIMES

## ECONOMICS WRITER

There is a vacancy for an Economics Writer on the staff of The Times Business News.

Candidates should have relevant qualifications or experience in economic analysis or journalism.

Please write giving full personal and career details to:

Editor

The Times Business News

Times Newspapers Ltd.

200 Gray's Inn Road,

London WC1 8EZ

## MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Small, dynamic marketing group has vacancy for executive to work on promoting international conferences.

Some experience of marketing or market research preferred. Excellent opportunity to develop ideas in the marketing field. Salary £4,400 p.a. (review January 1980). Please reply with full c.v. details to:

Personal Dept.

Financial Times Ltd.

Bankers House,

10 Cannon St., London EC4 3AY.

236 3758.

## university college of swansea

## APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARIAN

Applications are invited for the post of Librarian, which will become vacant on 1 October, 1980.

Applicants should be graduates with qualifications in librarianship, experience of an academic library and an interest in automated services.

The salary will be a minimum of £10,998 per annum (under review).

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, to whom applications (10 copies) should be returned by Friday, 19 January, 1980.

ASSISTANT MANAGER/Head of public services required for King's Head public house, 115 Upper St., Islington, N.1.

Full-time evening hours, 1st shift, 5.30-11.00 p.m. Phone 226 1916/1961.

RESEARCHER—Experienced research officer to investigate international business opportunities. Please send resume to: The Times.

EXECUTIVE TRAINER for Public School background, for City in Finance, Development, Sales, Training, etc. to succeed in the City. Contact: 01-580 7699.

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC—We require a full-time academic to teach in the Department of Economics at the University of Swansea. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of Economics in the Department of Economics at the University of Swansea. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of Economics in the Department of Economics at the University of Swansea.

TECHNICAL SUB-EDITOR—The Publishing Division of the Communist Party of Great Britain is seeking a technical sub-editor to work on the production of the Party's publications. The successful candidate will be responsible for the technical aspects of the production of the Party's publications.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT £10,000 + CAR

For sale/rental in Middlesex, well qualified acct. with 2-3 years' exp. in acct. Excellent career opportunity. Ring now

01-409 2625 (West End) 01-588 7921 (City) 24 hours

Personnel Appointments

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Personnel Appointments

## Parliamentary Adviser

The Chemical Industries Association is seeking an experienced (and flexible) individual to develop further its communications with MPs and active Peers in Westminster and in the constituencies. CIA is the main trade and employer body representing the UK's £15,000m/year chemical industry. Chemicals represent the biggest single contribution to the UK's trade surplus in manufactured goods and is investing in new plant at the rate of £1,000m a year.

This key post is within the CIA External Relations Directorate and carries an attractive salary and benefits. The Parliamentary Adviser will also serve the officers of the All-Party Group for the Chemical Industry and will be involved in all aspects of CIA's work.

Applicants should write to: W. McMillan, Director, External Relations, Chemical Industries Association, Albion House, 83 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TU.

## GENERAL VACANCIES

FINES ART FACTORY, London based requires an experienced, motivated individual to join its staff. The successful candidate will be responsible for the production of fine art prints. The successful candidate will be responsible for the production of fine art prints.

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COMPETENT person required to manage a small business. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of a small business. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of a small business.

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## Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

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TRAVEL AGENTS near London require person with experience in travel industry. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of a travel agency. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of a travel agency.

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Director requires calm, efficient secretary for his office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of a director's office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of a director's office.

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## BELGRAVIA

Small, long established company in Belgrave, requires a responsible person with commercial experience and fluent in German, to handle orders, quotations and invoices of all import/export transactions.

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We are seeking an attractive, bright individual person to run our busy reception and operate a PBX switchboard. An ability to work under pressure and sense of humour are distinctive advantages, and in return we will be offering an excellent salary to the lucky applicant.

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DIVIDEND NOTICES

UNIVERSITY N.V. Redemptie Kruis. N.V. Nederlandse Administratieve Dienst. The dividend for 1979 of 4.75 pence per share will be paid on 15 January 1980. To obtain this dividend certificate, please send in your dividend certificate to the University of N.V. Redemptie Kruis, N.V. Nederlandse Administratieve Dienst, P.O. Box 1000, 1000 AA Amsterdam.

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Promotion potential for career minded person. Must have good sales including travel. Marlow (08294) 74033 (Consultants)

WIMPRESSARIO, classical music. Needs assistant for program commissioning, order, common sense, personal contact, etc. £1,400 p.a. 01-499 0122 F. Times.

TEMPING TIMES

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Interested and well-paid. Please send resume to: Temping Times, 110 Strand, London WC2R 0JH. (Phone ring for details)

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01-499 0092/01-493 5507

COMPANY NOTICES

NORTHCH CORPORATION 5 PERCENT REDEEMABLE LOAN

Barclays Bank Limited. Registered in England. Registered office: 12, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3JF. The company is authorised to raise a loan of £100,000,000 in the form of 100,000,000 £1 shares.

CRONE CORKILL (Recruitment Consultants)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1947

A PETITION IN WIND UP of the above named company presented by the Liquidator of the company in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1947.



The Great Wapiti  
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## PERSONAL CHOICE

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

12.45 pm News weather.  
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: guests include Annabel Leventon (you can see her again tonight in *Pebble Mill*) and singer Peter Dinklage, who pays tribute to Fred Astaire.  
1.45 Camberwick Green: animated puppet tale for children: Mr Dargaud, the Salesman (r).  
2.00 Closedown at 2.00.  
2.20 Pebble Mill at One: serial in Welsh.  
2.55 Play School: the story is A First Day in Delhi, told by Meena Dhanraj.  
4.20 Muzikid: Czechoslovakian cartoon. Fig the Polar Explorer.  
4.25 Jackanory: the concluding episode of The Elephant War, read by Janet May.  
4.40 Hong Kong Phooey: cartoon. Puffy Cake, Party Cake (r).  
4.55 Comedy: the guests include Snowdowny, Waddy.  
5.35 Ivor the Engine: Oliver Postgate's story The Bird House (r).

## BBC 2

11.00 am Play School: same as BBC 1.  
11.55 Close down at 11.55.  
1.00 Raising the Bar: cartoon. We see the 1.15, 1.50, 2.25 and 3.00 events. Close down at 3.15.  
3.40 Laurel and Hardy: Twice the trouble and trouble and a half.  
4.40 Hong Kong Phooey: cartoon. Puffy Cake, Party Cake (r).  
4.55 Comedy: the guests include Snowdowny, Waddy.  
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## THAMES

9.30 am Once Upon a Time: Peter Davison tells the story of The Ball that Didn't Know What It Was.  
9.45 Felix the Cat: cartoon.  
9.55 Wild Canada: film about the world's largest national park, Wood Buffalo Park.  
10.40 McMillan murder thriller with Rock Hudson (r).  
11.55 The Bubbles: cartoon. Paper Bird.  
12.00 The Learning Tree: children's tale about rubbish dumping.  
12.10 pm Rainbow: the theme today is wists and ankles.  
12.30 The Saltwater: Australian family series.  
1.00 News with Peter Sissons.  
1.20 Thames News with Robin Houston.  
1.30 Simply Sewing: Leila Aikens shows how to make a four-panel skirt.  
2.00 After Noon Music: cookery

expert Mary Berry begins her countdown to Christmas.  
2.45 Film: Over the Moon (1957). British-made romantic comedy about a girl who is left 218m. Sad to realise that Marie Overton, who plays the girl, died last week. Rex Harrison co-stars.  
4.15 The Fleckton Flyer: re-showing of the series about a family who run a private steam train. With Patrick Mower.  
4.45 Magpie: magazine programme for children.  
7.15 The Brady Bunch: American family series.  
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News.  
6.30 Thames Sport: Ronald Allison talks about the weekend sport. The 2-2-2. Soccer has news on the racing scene.

## LONDON WEEKEND

7.00 pm The Muppet Show: the puppets have, as their human guest, the American singer Linda Lavin.  
9.30 2-2-2: family quiz programme, hosted by Ted Rogers. The theme tonight is hotels, so one

## BBC 1

5.40 News with Peter Woods.  
5.55 Nationwide: includes Desmond Lynam's Sportsweek.  
7.00 Tom and Jerry: cartoon. Puss 'n Boots.  
7.45 Up a Gum Tree: new series. Jimmy David Bellamy in Western Australia (see Personal Choice).  
7.55 My Wife Next Door: comedies about a divorced couple (John Alderton, Hannah Gordon).  
Tonight wedding anniversary complications (r).  
8.05 Pennine: (see also Pebble Mill at One). Cornish family saga.  
8.25 Jackanory: the concluding episode of The Elephant War, read by Janet May.  
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Tonight: defence into attack; and how feathered shuttles are made.  
7.25 News with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.  
7.35 In the Country: a visit to the farm of Joe Hanson (son of Leslie, brother of Nicky) which houses a collection of rare breeds such as Cotswold sheep and Longhorn cattle. The visitor, as usual, is Angela Rippon.  
8.25 Kojak: repeat of the episode in which the New York detective investigates a murder, not knowing the colleague he is working with is the killer.  
10.15 Points of View: viewers' letters about programmes, answered by Barry Took.

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## Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.  
6.10 Farming Today.  
6.30 News.  
7.00, 8.00 News.  
7.30, 8.30 Headlines.  
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.  
9.00 News.  
9.05 Desert Island Discs.  
9.45 Enquire Within.  
10.00 News.  
10.05 From Our Own Correspondent.  
10.30 Daily Service.  
10.45 Wimp Hand (concl).  
11.00 News.  
11.05 You, the Jury.  
11.50 Bird of the Week (2).  
12.00 News.  
12.02 pm You and Yours.  
12.27 My Word?  
12.55 Weather.  
1.00 The World at One.  
1.40 The Archers.  
2.00 News.  
2.05 Woman's Hour.  
3.00 News.  
3.02 Listen with Mother.  
3.15 Play: In the Unlikely Event of an Emergency by Penelope Gilt.  
3.45 News.  
4.10 Voyage to Recovery.  
4.45 Story: The Preacher and the Prophet.  
5.00 News.  
5.35 Weather.  
6.00 News.  
6.05 Going Places.  
7.00 News.  
7.05 The Archers.  
7.20 Pick of the Week.  
8.10 Preface to Shakespeare.  
8.30 Any Questions?  
9.15 Letter from America.  
9.45 Kaleidoscope.  
10.00 The World Tonight.  
10.30 Week Ending.  
11.00 A Book at Bedtime.  
11.15 Financial World Tonight.  
11.30 Today in Parliament.  
11.45 Play: Miss Harriet Booth.  
12.00 News, weather.  
12.15-12.35 am Inshore forecast.  
VEF.  
6.50 am Regional news, weather.  
7.50 Regional news, weather.  
8.50 pm Regional news, weather.  
11.00-11.30 Study on 4: Keno Problem (10).

## Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.  
7.00 News.  
7.05 Records: Byrd, Barber, Schenker, Purcell, Vaughan Williams.  
8.00 News.  
8.05 Records: Tippett, Mendelssohn, Elgar.  
9.00 News.  
9.05 Records: Kodaly.  
10.00 Harpsichord: Scarlatti, Soler.  
10.55 Marbeck (motet).  
11.55 Cello: Xenakis.  
12.15 pm BBC Scottish SO/Rickenbacher: Weber, Mayer.  
1.00 News.  
1.05 BBCSO: Elgar, Hindemith.  
1.45 The Arts Worldwide.  
2.05 Music at Lavenham: Dowland, Jones, Ford etc.  
2.45 The Amiable Vegetable (talk).  
3.00 Lavenham (2): Puccini and Monteverdi, etc.  
3.45 Piano: Nielsen, McCabe, Busoni.  
4.25 Comparing Notes.  
5.25 Homeward Bound.  
5.45 News.  
5.50 Homeward Bound.  
6.15 At Home.  
7.10 Review: One Pair of Ears.  
7.25 Preview: Plus in Again. 7.30 BBC Northern SO/Lepard (live from Free Trade Hall): Barber, Gershwin (Png Conc).  
8.20 Poetry Now.  
8.40 BBCNSO: Carter (Variations), Bernstein.  
9.35 Talk: The Living Principle—Mozart and Don Juan.  
10.35 Music by Berwald.  
11.00 Serpents of Thomas Moore: Berlioz, Tchaikovsky, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Jensen, Ives, Duparc.  
11.55 News.  
12.07-12.08 am Cricket: Australia v England (one-day).

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5.00 am News, weather. 5.03 Stereo Jones. 7.33 Terry Wogan. 10.03 Jimmy Young. 12.15 pm Wagoners' Walk. 12.30 Derek Hob-

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## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING STARTS HERE

APPOINTMENTS VACANT 23  
BUSINESS TO BUSINESS 23  
CAR BUYER'S GUIDE 23  
CONTRACTS AND TENDERS 23  
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FINANCIAL 23  
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SECRETARIAL AND NON-SECRETARIAL 23  
SITUATIONS WANTED 23

See No. 10 for the address of the Times, PO Box 7, Newington, London SE1 6NQ.

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We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Advertising Department immediately by telephoning 01-8373311 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

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Alterations to copy is 3.00 pm prior to the day of publication. For Monday's have the deadline is 12 noon Saturday. On all cancellations a Stop Number will be issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

SO that my word be that I shall not return until we void, but I shall return to you in the place, and I shall prove in the witness of my hand, 11th January 1979.

### BIRTHS

ARAH—On 27th July, 1979, at St. Mary's, London, a daughter, Rebecca, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Arah. GROOMS—On 27th July, 1979, at St. Mary's, London, a daughter, Rebecca, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Arah. GROOMS—On 27th July, 1979, at St. Mary's, London, a daughter, Rebecca, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Arah.

### DEATHS

BRADLEY DYER—On 27th July, 1979, at St. Mary's, London, a daughter, Rebecca, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Arah.

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